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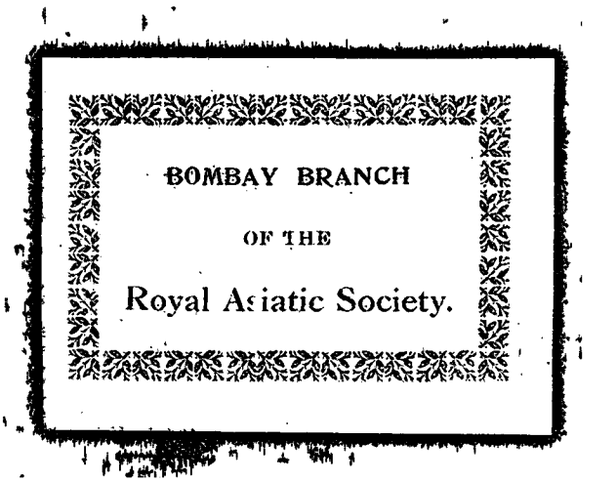

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF

BIHAR AND ORISSA

133059

1917-1918

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1919

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PART I.

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

SHORT SUMMARY

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BIHAR AND ORISSA, 1917-18.

BIHAR AND ORISSA.

Lieutenant-Governor.

SIR E. A. GAIT, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.

Members of Council.

HON'BLE SIR E. V. LEVINGE, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

HON'BLE MAHARAJA BAHADUR SIR RAMESHWARA SINGH, G.C.I.E., of Darbhanga.

HON'BLE MR. W. MAUDE, C.S.I.

Introductory.

THOUGH the outbreak of war had at once imposed numerous financial and other limitations on the progress of administration, it was not till its prolongation into the fourth year that war conditions began to have a really serious effect on the everyday life of the general population of the province. But then the absence of shipping, and the increasing demands of the military on all railway rolling-stock caused a shortage of freight for general purposes which reacted on the ordinary transactions of the most remote villages. Grain merchants were unwilling to buy in their usual quantities, cultivators found themselves unable to market their produce, and the economy of mufassal bazars was as much disturbed as the business life of the larger towns. Tenants defaulted in rent, and landlords found consequent difficulty in discharging the land revenue demand. Fortunately the harvest was good and the absence of transport kept the price of foodstuffs low; common rice nowhere sold at less than ten seers for the rupee; and there was an absence of actual distress. Those who suffered most were the small middle class cultivators whose holdings produce rather more than their immediate requirements, and who are accustomed to derive from the sale of their surplus produce their few additional comforts. Petty bazar traders were also in difficulties from the shortage of freight; but they are a class well able to protect themselves, and did not fail to take steps to secure their own interest at the cost of the public. The prices of all ordinary commodities such as spices, oil, cloth, kerosene and salt, were raised to abnormal figures by the greed of the larger dealers who controlled the markets, and in particular the situation in respect of salt became extremely serious. Salt is a necessity of life for the whole population, and the lack of shipping had cut off supplies from abroad on which the country had been accustomed to rely for a proportion of its requirements. Government finally was forced to intervene, and the supply of salt to each district was controlled through the District Boards and other local bodies under the official supervision of the Collector. These measures were successful in averting serious hardship. Bihar and Orissa is a province without a staple crop like wheat or cotton, such

as can command a good price and obtain special traffic facilities. Everything the cultivator had to sell, rice, oil-seeds or *gur*, had either fallen or at least not risen in price, while everything he had to buy, cloths, salt, kerosene, had become extremely expensive. These difficulties were borne with commendable patience and restraint by the public. With the exception of a single outbreak in the Bhagalpur division the province was free from the epidemic of *hat* looting which at one time threatened to invade it from Bengal.

War efforts.

2. Though remote from the scene of hostilities, Bihar and Orissa made its contribution to the struggle. Shahabad was once a fruitful nursery for the Rajput regiments, but recruitment had been discontinued; and until August 1917, when the Provincial Recruiting Board was constituted, there was no local controlling agency, though a certain amount of recruitment both for combatant and non-combatant services was carried on intermittently by military officers deputed by the Army Department of the Government of India. When regular recruiting officers were appointed, assisted by district and thana committees, the province raised an average of between three and four hundred combatant recruits a month. At the same time recruitment of non-combatants for service in labour corps overseas was taken up vigorously and 12,761 labourers exclusive of skilled men, were recruited in twelve months. Two Santali corps comprising 3,929 units, and one and a half Ranchi corps of 2,876 units left for service in France, where they acquitted themselves with credit. A number of the more public-spirited zamindars materially assisted recruitment by the grant of bonuses, remission of rent and other advantages to those of their tenants who enlisted. One hundred and eight officers of the Local Government were serving under the Army Department. Seventy-one planters from North Bihar are reported to have joined His Majesty's forces, of whom the majority obtained commissions in the Indian Army Reserve of Officers.

The natural resources of the province were fully exploited to assist in the prosecution of the war; and the rich coal, iron, and mica deposits of Chota Nagpur were worked to their utmost capacity. To increase the output of mica special measures were taken under the Defence of India Act and large sums were spent from provincial funds to improve communications in mica areas. As a result, in spite of floods caused by unusually heavy rains, the output was increased by over 10,000 cwt., and 2,764 tons of mica were exported to the United Kingdom. The coalfields were entirely dominated by war requirements. All the better grades of coal were requisitioned for military purposes. The output from the province increased by more than a million tons and its aggregate of 11,931,141 tons represented more than two-thirds of the total output in the whole of India. Iron and steel companies were busy executing Government orders, and Messrs. Tata & Co. during the twelve months supplied to Government 96,883 tons of rails, fish-plates, and steel material. The output of copper rose with a leap from 2,671 tons in 1916 to 20,108 tons. The Bhagalpur-Bausi branch line of the East Indian Railway was dismantled to provide railway material for the military authorities. The timber resources of the province were placed at the disposal of the Munitions Board: squares, piles and scantlings in large quantities were supplied by departmental agency direct to the Timber Supply Officer at Bombay and to the Superintendent of the Rifle Factory at Ishapur, but the greater part, consisting of railway sleepers and other timber, was sent indirectly through the Agent of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

The public responded liberally to the appeal for contributions to the War Relief Fund and in spite of its novelty the subscriptions to the War Loan were far more satisfactory than the figures with which the province is credited would suggest, as the bulk of the contributions were paid through Calcutta and up-country banks and went to swell the totals of other provinces. It is known that the Feudatory States of Orissa alone contributed Rs. 46,46,815.

General events.

3. The year's record was marred by one of the most violent outbreaks of Hindu and Muhammadan animosity which has occurred n India within recent memory. The occasion was the Bakr-Id festival in the latter part of September and the immediate area of disturbance was the district of Shahabad. The first riot occurred at a village named Ibrahimpur near Piru, on the morning of September 28th, when in spite of the conclusion of a compromise between the local Hindus and Muhammadans, a large body of Hindus from a distance attacked and looted the village. The rioters dispersed as quickly as they had appeared, and since the compromise had been in effect broken, the Muhammadans performed cow-sacrifice according to their custom. On the morning of the 30th a mob of Hindus which was estimated to number more than 25,000 attacked Ibrahimpur, Piru and the neighbouring villages; and it was only dispersed after a hand-to-hand contest with the police; in the course of which much looting was done and the police-station attacked. Strong reinforcements of Military Police were hurried into the district, and for 36 hours, there was an outward calm. On October 2nd, without further warning, rioting and looting broke out simultaneously over the greater part of the district. For six days law and order disappeared. Large mobs appeared everywhere, attacking Muhammadans, destroying their houses, and looting their property. In the south of the district Muhammadan villagers put up a plucky resistance, and desperate fights attended by bloodshed occurred at Mauna and Turkbigha. The mobs were in many cases led by small zamindars, who directed the proceedings from elephants or from horseback, and contained a large element of the more influential Hindus of the countryside, including Brahmans, Rajputs, Babhans and Kayasthas. The strong detachments of troops which had reached Arrah had at first great difficulty in getting to close quarters across water-logged country with the numerous mobile bodies of rioters, who were well served by their spies; but resistance collapsed as soon as it became possible to establish mufassal military posts and connect them with patrols along the main roads. On October 9th similar disturbances broke out in the adjoining parts of the Gaya district, where over 30 villages were looted; but by this time troops were near at hand and order was restored by the 13th. Rioters, who had been arrested in great numbers, were tried by special tribunals constituted under the Defence of India Act and 2,465 men were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

Earlier in the year, in the month of May, there had been disturbances in the Mayurbhanj State, where the Santals used the recruiting operations which were in progress as the occasion to ventilate various grievances against the state administration. Some minor officials were assaulted, while helping in the work of recruitment for a Santal Labour Corps, property was looted and a part of the railway line torn up. Order was temporarily restored by the despatch of armed police from Orissa and a body of one hundred infantry from Calcutta. The Santals were given assurances regarding the recruiting operations; but they continued to hold mass meetings; and a fresh rising occurred in June, when

a constable was killed by the mob, and the bazar of Rairangpur looted. Military police were again called in and the disturbances were finally put down, a large number of the rioters being convicted and sentenced to imprisonment.

In the interval between these two occurrences attention had centred on Champaran, where Mr. Gandhi, accompanied by a band of his supporters, had visited the district, and was touring in the villages to make personal inquiries into those matters of dispute, arising chiefly from the cultivation of indigo which had estranged the local European landlords and their tenants. Considerable excitement resulted and a small Committee was eventually formed, of which Mr. (now Sir) Frank Sly was the President, and Mr. Gandhi a member, to hold a public inquiry into agrarian conditions in the district. The Champaran Agrarian Act (Bihar and Orissa Act I of 1918) was subsequently passed to give effect to the recommendations made.

Administration.

4. The deputation of a large number of officers to the Army Department depleted the staffs available for district administration. To meet the deficiency, some retired Deputy Magistrates were brought back to employment for the period of the war and for six months after. Five posts of Sub-Judge were added to the cadre of the provincial judicial service.

The work of preparing a record of agricultural rights and rents in Palamau continued to give rise to a number of controversial issues. In order to ease the strained agrarian relations, orders were issued by Government for a fair rent settlement of specified areas in the district. Revisional settlement operations in Saran proceeded smoothly.

Police and Crime.

5. The events of the year and in particular the disturbances in Mayurbhanj, Shahabad, and Gaya, imposed an exceptional strain on all ranks of the police. Their work during the disturbances was very satisfactory. The value of the two existing companies of Military Police as highly trained bodies ready to move at a moment's notice was amply demonstrated, and towards the close of the year the Government of India sanctioned the temporary entertainment of a third company to be stationed at Hazaribagh. The work of the rural police or chaukidars was less satisfactory. In Shahabad they not only failed to report the preparations for disturbance, of which they were well aware, but many of them actively assisted in the collection of mobs and themselves took part in the rioting.

There was a general decrease in crime, except dacoities which were more numerous. In the district of Hazaribagh there were 91 cases of robbery, for nearly all of which a single gang was responsible. The notorious highwayman who led the gang was eventually murdered by one of his own confederates, who was afterwards caught and sentenced to death. Progress was made in following up the workings of revolutionary emissaries who had long been endeavouring to create an anarchist party in Bihar, and thirteen residents of the province were dealt with under the Defence of India Act, most of them being interned with relatives or at their homes. There was no overt political crime.

Public Works.

6. The building programme was curtailed by the difficulty of procuring material and by considerations of economy. At the new capital at Patna, the construction of residences for Government officials proceeded. Considerable success attended the experimental use of reinforced brickwork.

Before the creation of a separate administration for Bihar and Orissa all important lines of communication radiated from Calcutta by virtue of its dual character as the centre of the administration, and the port of the province; and so, with the removal of the seat of Government, it became necessary to create roads to join up the various parts of the new administration. Accordingly by the improvement of existing roads and the construction of new ones a good trunk road is being made from Patna through Chota Nagpur to Orissa. The section from Patna to Gaya is in the charge of the Patna and Gaya District Boards, to which financial assistance is being given for the improvement of their existing interdistrict road communications in order to bring them up to the required standard.

Local Self-Government.

7. There were no marked developments in local Self-Government; District Boards throughout the province were hampered by their inability to undertake important works of construction, owing to the difficulty of securing material; and, in consequence, their balances continued to rise steadily, as they have done since the pinch of the war began to be felt. Many of the Boards invested part of their balances in the war loan.

Municipalities and District Boards were invited to cope with the salt problem: and a reference has already been made to the successful results which attended their intervention. The Northern India Salt Revenue Department gave priority to the indents of local bodies, which in turn arranged for the sale of salt in retail at fixed prices.

Agriculture.

8. In Bihar and Orissa, as in other provinces, where the vast majority of the population earn their livelihood from agriculture, the economic condition of the people is determined directly by the outturn of their crops. During the year the rainfall was copious, and though the heavy downpour at the close of the monsoon did much damage, the harvest was a good one. Test-works under the Famine Code were continued from the previous year in Singhbhum and Angul, closing finally in August; but elsewhere no measures of relief were necessary. There were heavy floods in the north Gangetic districts.

The work of the Agricultural Department was handicapped by deficiencies of staff. There was a large increase in the number of applications for admission to the Sabour Agricultural College, where the substitution of the short two-years' course introduced in 1916 in place of the diploma course of three years has had the effect of attracting a better class of students.

The scheme for a sugarcane-selecting station in North Bihar was thoroughly revised. Four new experimental and seed farms, two for Orissa and two for Chota Nagpur were sanctioned to deal with the special agricultural problems of those areas. A rice survey was undertaken and improved seeds, especially of Pusa No. 12 wheat, *indrasail* paddy, sugarcane, jute, hemp and cotton were distributed. An attempt was made to ascertain the precise effect of the practice of *nikar*, or temporary drying of the wet-rice lands before inflorescence, which is customary in the area commanded by the Sone and involves an enormous expenditure of water from the irrigation canals; but the results were indefinite and the experiments are being continued. The Civil Veterinary Department has still to contend with opposition based on religious prejudice in its efforts to prevent the spread of cattle disease by inoculation. Rinderpest was not so violent as in the preceding year.

Public health.

9. The late rains were chiefly responsible for the unhealthiness of the year. The death-rate from cholera and plague increased and fever was prevalent. The birth-rate rose from 36·6 to 40·4 and the death-rate from 32·8 to 35·2, the decennial averages being 39·9 and 32·9 respectively. Registration is still faulty, and the returns, except from the larger towns, are generally unreliable. Experimental anti-malaria measures were taken in two selected areas, one rural and one urban; they failed to excite popular interest and the results were negatived. Malaria lecturers were appointed to tour in three districts. Investigations were instituted in the Bhagalpur Jail and the Patna Lunatic Asylum to ascertain the prevalence of hook-worm disease.

The number of hospitals and dispensaries rose to 420, and there seems no reason to doubt that these institutions are regarded with growing confidence by the public. The medical schools at Patna and Cuttack are reported to have done well. The advanced training of medical students from Bihar and Orissa is handicapped by the limitation on the number which can be admitted to the Calcutta Medical College.

An asylum for European lunatics was opened near Ranchi to serve the whole of Northern India, the cost being met from imperial revenues. Work on the similar institution for Indians at the same place was in progress, but was delayed by the difficulty of procuring materials.

Education.

10. The University of Patna was established on October 1st. It is intended to be both a residential and a teaching university; but war conditions rendered the construction of buildings impossible, and the university is for the time being an examining body only. The first examinations under its authority were held in February and April. The land on which the university buildings are to be constructed was acquired, and the Government Architect was at work on the plans. A scheme for the establishment at the Patna College of Post-graduate classes is under consideration; but at present advanced students have to migrate to Calcutta, which is a very unsatisfactory arrangement.

Several important educational changes were introduced. Local bodies were relieved of all expenditure on secondary education, and Middle English Schools managed by District Boards were taken over by Government on an aided basis. The proper sphere of local bodies in educational matters is the control, direction and expansion of primary education; and they will for the future be able to concentrate on that object the funds which they set apart for educational purposes, thereby laying the foundation for a wider diffusion of elementary instruction. Towards the close of the year sanction was given to the introduction of a school-leaving certificate examination, designed to put an end to the old system under which the interests of all the boys in a school are sacrificed to the needs of would-be matriculates. The wider range of subjects which the new examination allows will enable the secondary schools to give a better general training to all their pupils, and only those will read for the matriculation who genuinely aspire to a university career. Under the Regulations of the Patna University, sanctioned in February, power was delegated to the Director of Public Instruction to recognize High Schools for the purpose of presenting candidates at the matriculation examination, subject only to a reference when it is proposed to refuse or withdraw recognition. This will free the university from much detail connected with the schools.

A small decrease of nine in the number of primary schools is not to be interpreted as a mark of retrogression, for in some districts it was necessary to adopt a policy of concentration where schools were too close together. The number of pupils increased by almost six thousand, and the undivided attention which local bodies will now be able to give to primary education should lead to further substantial growth. Female education remained stationary and there is still a mass of prejudice to be broken down. On the subject of technical education there is little to record. An extension of artisan classes at the Bihar School of Engineering was sanctioned; but large developments have had to await the conclusion of hostilities and the return of easier financial conditions.

Co-operative Credit.

11. It was an anxious year for the co-operative movement. As a consequence of the high prices of ordinary commodities, there was a marked diminution of local deposits, and in addition large sums were diverted to the War Loan. It is satisfactory therefore that the Provincial Bank, which had been opened in 1914 with the object of providing capital for local organizations, was able to meet all demands, and its assistance saved many central banks from financial difficulty. Defects in the working of the central banks were corrected and a large increase was made in the number of guarantee unions, whose primary function is to act as the delegate of the central bank in scrutinizing the affairs of the individual societies. These unions increased in number from 5 to 23, the number of agricultural societies increased by 279, and the total of members from 56,200 to 60,778, with an aggregate working capital of Rs. 29,81,629. The capital of the Catholic Mission Society in Ranchi which now exceeds Rs. 4⅓ lakhs had an increase of over 200 per cent from deposits by members who went to France in the labour corps. The most important development of the year was the formation of a co-operative federation. This is the first definite step in the direction of decentralization. The federation has opened a press of its own, and a proportion of the growing cost of audit will now be met by the societies from a contribution levied on them by the federation. In this way, by virtue of their contribution to the cost of control, the co-operators themselves will gradually win the right to a share in deciding the policy and development of the co-operative movement. While the administration has been, and still is, indebted to the energy and enthusiasm of numerous non-officials in spreading the principles of co-operation, increased assistance from persons with the necessary education and good will is a matter of the most urgent necessity. There is still a lack of voluntary pioneers to carry the movement into new areas; and it was found necessary to depute an officer of Government to conduct a special propaganda.

Forests.

12. Reference has already been made to the work of the Forest Department in meeting the demands of the Munitions Board. The continued deforestation of private forests, especially in Chota Nagpur, is the most serious problem at present awaiting solution. There are few private zamindars sufficiently far-sighted to grasp the importance of conserving the forest areas of their estates, and they invariably prefer to lease them for a quick return to contractors who in a few months do damage which decades cannot restore. Official encouragement to private proprietors to apply for reservation or protection under the Indian Forest Act has met with no response, and it is to be feared that nothing short of specific legislation will suffice for the permanent preservation of this most important factor in the

future prosperity of the country. The denudation of forest in the catchment area of the Damodar river is responsible for recurring floods, and an inspection was made of this area to determine the feasibility of acquiring suitable portions on behalf of Government for reafforestation. Various experiments were made in artificial and natural reproduction, among which the casuarina plantations at Puri did well, and attempts were made in suitable areas to propagate the *mahua* tree and *tarwad* (*cassia auriculata*). The great demand of the Munitions Board for timber and sleepers resulted in an expansion of revenue exceeding 40 per cent and a surplus at the close of the year of Rs. 3,98,177.

Finance.

13. Imperial receipts amounted to Rs. 1,26,90,000 and expenditure to Rs. 43,56,000, provincial receipts totalled Rs. 3,23,07,000 and there was an expenditure of Rs. 3,30,11,000. In provincial finance there was an increase of expenditure by Rs. 16½ lakhs compared with 1916-17. The special tribunals appointed under the Defence of India Act to try the Shahabad and Gaya rioters were an expensive item : and the cost of maintaining temporary additional police was only partially met by the recoveries assessed on the local population. Improvements in the pay and training of school teachers contributed towards the increase of Rs. 3½ lakhs spent on education. There was increased expenditure on original civil works.

In provincial receipts there was a net increase of Rs. 4½ lakhs. The largest increase was in excise revenue, as a consequence of the enhancement of license fees, and increased consumption which is one of the features of a good agricultural year; the next largest improvement was in forest revenue. There was a decrease of more than 4 lakhs in land revenue receipts but this was largely due to the accident that the Easter and Holi holidays fell at the end of March and a number of payments on account of the March *kist* were for that reason not made till the beginning of April.

Restricted expenditure on surveys and settlements and the absence of famine or scarcity resulted in a decrease of expenditure under imperial heads : there was a small increase in imperial receipts from excise and income-tax revenue and a decrease in the contributions from imperial to provincial funds.

Political movements and the Press.

14. The political events of the year culminating in the visit to India of His Majesty's Secretary of State did not fail to attract the attention and excite the interest of the politically-minded. Of matters of more local interest, the events in Champaran occupied considerable space in the local press : and the feelings engendered by the Shahabad disturbances led to some wild writing. With the demise of the *Beharee*, the *Express* of Patna was the only newspaper appearing in a daily edition.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1917-18.

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ADMINISTRATION OF BIHAR AND ORISSA, 1917-18.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

For—

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE AND CHIEF STAPLES.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY.

FORM OF ADMINISTRATION.

CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES; SYSTEM OF SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY.

DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-12, PART II, PAGES 1—129.

The Lieutenant-Governor.

1. The Hon'ble Sir Edward Albert Gait, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., held charge as Lieutenant-Governor throughout the year.

Headquarters of Government and Lieutenant-Governor's Tours.

2. The headquarters of the Government were located at Ranchi until the 8th November and at Patna during the remainder of the year. **Headquarters of Government.**

3. On the 10th April the Lieutenant-Governor left Ranchi on a visit to Puri where he stayed till the 29th April, visiting Kanarak on the 16th and Satyabadi on the 27th April. **Tours.**

On the 22nd July His Honour visited Patna, where the first meeting of the Provincial Recruiting Board was held, Arrah and Sasaram, and returned to Ranchi via Patna on the 31st July.

In October the Lieutenant-Governor again visited Patna and Arrah to concert measures for the suppression of the Bakr-Id disturbances in the Shahabad District.

On the 3rd November the Lieutenant-Governor proceeded by motor-car from Ranchi to Hazaribagh to open the Science Block of St. Columba's College, returning to Ranchi the same day. *En route* to Patna His Honour visited Kodarma on the 9th November and inspected the mica mines. Later in the same month the Lieutenant-Governor visited Delhi as the guest of His Excellency the Viceroy.

On the 14th December His Honour left Patna for a visit to Darbhanga, Chapra and Hatwa, returning to Patna on the 21st.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

During January the Lieutenant-Governor made a visit to the Jharia coal-field, spending two days in an inspection of the mines and works, and proceeded thence to Sambalpur where a Darbar was held. Returning to Patna on the 16th January His Honour left again on the 20th on a second visit to Delhi for a Conference of the Heads of Provincial Administrations with His Excellency the Viceroy and the Secretary of State for India on the Reforms Scheme, and returned to Patna on the 26th January.

In February His Honour visited the Gaya and Palamau Districts.

Changes in the Administration.

Executive Council.

4. The Hon'ble Sir William Vincent, Kt., K.C.S.I., on his return from leave on the 17th April 1917, resigned his appointment as a Member of the Executive Council. The Hon'ble Mr. W. Maude, C.S.I., filled the vacancy on the Council substantively with effect from that date. Sir Edward Levinge, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., and Maharaja Bahadur Sir Rameshwar Singh, G.C.I.E., K.C.B.E., of Darbhanga, resigned their appointments as Members of the Executive Council, on the 1st November 1917 and 6th November 1917, respectively. The vacancies on the Council were filled by the Hon'ble Mr. H. LeMesurier, C.S.I., C.I.E., and the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyid Sharf-ud-din, respectively.

Indian Civil Service.

5. (1) Orders were received from the Secretary of State for India sanctioning the addition of one post of Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the second grade to the cadre of the Indian Civil Service in consequence of the addition of one post of High Court Judge to the cadre of that service. Effect was given to the post from the 1st April 1917.

(2) The temporary appointment in the third grade of Magistrates and Collectors sanctioned by the Local Government from the 31st March 1916 to provide an Additional District Magistrate for Manbhum continued throughout the year.

Provincial Executive Service.

6. (1) A revision was made of the normal staffs for the headquarters stations of the districts of Shahabad, Muzaffarpur, Saran, Monghyr, Cuttack, Sambalpur and Hazaribagh and of the sanctioned staffs of Deputy Collectors for the Public Works Department, Wards Estates, Partition and Tributary States.

(2) To meet the abnormal deficiency of officers employed on district administration in consequence of the deputation of a large number of officers of the Indian Civil Service and Provincial Civil Service under the Army Department, it was decided by the Local Government at the instance of the Government of India temporarily to re-employ in general administration some retired Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, their appointments to continue till the end of the war and for six months after. Five such officers were re-employed during the year.

Provincial Judicial Service.

7. (1) The Local Government sanctioned temporarily the addition of five posts of Sub-Judges to the cadre of the Provincial Judicial Service, viz., two to the second grade and three to the third grade, with effect from the 1st April 1917. The appointments were made permanent with effect from the 1st April 1918.

(2) In April 1917 revised rules were prescribed for admission into the Provincial Judicial Service.

(3) The Local Government sanctioned the establishment of a Subordinate Judge's Court at Dhanbad in the district of Manbhum with effect from the 31st October 1917.

Court of Sessions.

8. Orders were passed directing that the Court of Sessions of the Sessions Division of Manbhum-Sambalpur should hold its sittings at Purulia, Sambalpur, Chaibassa and Dhanbad.

Examination of Munsifs in the vernacular language.

9. Revised rules were issued, with the concurrence of the High Court, prescribing only the higher standard examination for the Departmental Examination of Munsifs in Hindi, Oriya and Bengali languages instead of the lower standard examination in these languages. Under the revised rules officers are not eligible for promotion from the lowest grade until they pass in the vernacular language or languages prescribed for their districts.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

Political States of Chota Nagpur.

[Report on these States for 1917-18 by the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division.]

[Two States:—1. Seraikela: area, 419 square miles; population, 109,794; total income from all sources, Rs. 1,92,887; Chief, Raja Bahadur Udit Narayan Singh Deo, aged 69 years. 2. Kharsawan: area, 153 square miles; population, 38,852; total income from all sources, Rs. 55,197; Chief, Raja Sriram Chandra Deo Singh, aged 27 years.]

10. The two states continued under the administration of their respective Chiefs. The Chief of Seraikela suffered from ill health during the most part of the year and the chief duties of administration fell on the Jubraj who performed them efficiently. **Administration.**

11. The percentage of total collection to total demand increased in Seraikela from 68·18 to 83·53 and in Kharsawan from 84·04 to 84·76. The marked increase in the former state was due to good crops and to better methods of realization. **Revenue.**

12. The total number of police cases brought to trial in the Seraikela State remained the same as in the previous year. In the Kharsawan State the number increased from 73 to 79. The average duration of trial of police and complaint cases decreased in Seraikela from 13·95 and 15·86 to 9 and 14 days and in Kharsawan from 15 and 17 to 10 and 7 days respectively. The Chiefs now try all civil suits arising in their states. The average duration of uncontested suits increased in the Seraikela State from 63 to 83 days. The Kharsawan State maintained its average of 25 days. **Administration of justice.**

13. The average daily jail population decreased in Seraikela and increased in Kharsawan. **Jails.**

14. Forest revenue in Seraikela increased from Rs. 12,301 to 13,726. In Kharsawan it decreased from Rs. 4,745 to Rs. 4,233. **Forests.**

Tributary and Feudatory States of Orissa.

[Report on these States for 1917-18 by the Commissioner of the Orissa Division.]

[Number of states, 24. Total area, 20,054 square miles; total population, 3,798,130; total income from all sources, Rs. 68,64,349.]

15. The States of Baud, Daspalla, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Narsinghpur, Nilgiri and Pal Lahera continued under the management of Government. The State of Gangpur came under management owing to the death of Maharaja Raghunath Sikhar Deo and the minority of his grandson who succeeded him. The State of Kalahandi was released from management and the Chief was invested with powers at a Durbar held by the Lieutenant-Governor at Sambalpur in January 1918. The remaining fourteen states, viz., Athgarh, Athmallik, Bamra, Baramba, Bonai, Dhenkenal, Hindol, Khandpara, Patna, Rairakhol, Ranpur, Sonpur, Talchar and Tigiria were under the administration of their respective Chiefs. **Administration of land revenue.**

In the collection of revenue there was an improvement in five states; in nine collections were practically the same as in the previous year and in ten there was a falling off which was in most cases very slight.

16. Settlement operations were in progress in thirteen states and were brought to a close in Athmallik, Narsinghpur and Nayagarh States. In the last state an increase of Rs. 23,181 in land revenue was obtained and collected in full during the year. **Settlement.**

17. The number of cases reported to the police decreased in twenty states and increased in four. The decrease is due mainly to the diminution in petty crime as a result of the good harvest. Petty house-breaking and theft of food-stuffs were the offences which showed an appreciable decrease. The increase in reported crime in the Bonai State was marked, being 230 against 190 in the previous year. The various police forces have improved continuously and are now moderately efficient in all states with the exception of Bonai where the Chief has asked for the services of a government officer. **Crime and Police.**

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

During the year five cadets who had been sent for training to the Hazaribagh Police Training College successfully passed their examinations and ten cadets were sent for training from Baud, Bonai, Hindol, Daspalla, Gangpur, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh and Patna. The privilege accorded by Government to state administrations of having their police officers trained at Hazaribagh was highly appreciated and full advantage was taken of the concession; the majority of Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors employed are now trained men. One Sub-Inspector was sent from Mayurbhanj and one from Nayagarh to the Bankipore Finger Print Bureau for training. In the states which already possessed men trained in this work, the system of recording police portraits was efficiently carried out and finger print slips were sent to the Bankipore office for record. From Kalahandi a man was sent to the Ordnance Department at Rawalpindi for training as an armourer to take charge of the police armament.

Administration of Justice.

18. Corresponding to the decrease in the number of offences reported to the police, there was a decrease in the total number of cases brought to trial. Six states show slight increases. The average duration of trial of police cases decreased in thirteen states, increased in ten and remained the same in one state. In the returns of the average duration of trial in complaint cases a similar improvement was not shown and in fourteen states the average duration was reported to have increased. The standard of work on the whole was good. The class of officers exercising judicial functions are well trained and educated, their decisions as a rule fair and the punishment awarded on conviction adequate.

The total number of civil suits disposed of was a little less than that of the previous year. The average duration of contested suits decreased in thirteen and increased in eleven states.

Jails.

19. The daily average of the population in state jails decreased. The decrease was shared by twenty states and was the necessary consequence of the general decrease in crime. An increase in Mayurbhanj was due to the large number of prisoners confined as a result of the disturbances in that state. Discipline was well maintained in all the jails. The health of the prisoners was good.

Forests.

20. Considerable improvement was effected in the management of forests and the Agency Forest Officer continued to do excellent work. The privilege of sending candidates to the Government Forestry School was appreciated by the Chiefs and more men would be trained if room could be found for them.

Excise.

21. There was a slight increase in the total income from excise revenue, from the decline of the last few years though there has not yet been a complete recovery resulting from a succession of poor crops. The most considerable increase was in Gangpur and Sonpur: the greatest decrease was in Mayurbhanj where it was due to special causes. In Talcher and Bonai the fall was proportionately large; there were few bidders at the annual auction. As a result of the last bumper harvest, it is expected that the excise revenue will further increase in the next year. The Cooch Bihar system of supplying Rajshahi *ganja* to the states continued to work satisfactorily.

Public Works.

22. Fourteen states were in charge of the Agency Engineer. He had little scope for work as expenditure was reduced as far as possible to permit larger investments in the war loan.

Weather and Crops, material conditions of people.

23. The year was on the whole exceptionally prosperous. The *rabi* crop was affected to some extent by late rains and by failure of rain at the end of the year. Rice was cheap as the restriction of railway traffic curtailed its export.

Dispensaries.

24. Satisfactory progress was made in the provision of medical treatment and credit is due on this account to the Chiefs and the Superintendents of the States.

Education.

25. The total number of schools rose from 1,917 to 1,927. The total number of pupils attending the schools showed an increase of 4,654. Efforts were made to weed out students who were persistently guilty of irregular attendance. More attention was paid to female education and to the employment of female teachers in muffassal schools as a result of which the number of girls at school increased. The special schools for Pans and other low caste people and aborigines also improved. Attendance in primary schools is not in all cases entirely voluntary. In some of the states the parents or guardians are required to explain cases of irregular attendance.

Mines and minerals.

26. Mines and minerals are gradually being developed and the Chiefs are fully alive to the profit of encouraging these industries. Reputable firms competed for prospecting and mining leases and there was no difficulty in finding capital to work minerals.

War Loan.

27. The Chiefs and Superintendents of all states responded with signal loyalty and enthusiasm to the call of Government to invest in the first war loan and without exception not only subscribed all that they could spare from their public and private funds, but did their utmost to popularize the loan among their people. The result was most gratifying, the total investment secured being Rs. 46,46,815-12-0. Through the efforts of the Maharaja of Sonpur a sum of Rs. 54,000 was raised to provide two aeroplanes for the use of His Majesty's forces.

Recruitment for Labour Corps.

28. Recruitment for the labour corps was continued. In addition to the coolies recruited, convicts were sent for service from various states.

Disturbances in Mayurbhanj.

29. In May 1917 a rising occurred among the Santal inhabitants of the Mayurbhanj State : the immediate cause was an attempt to enlist men for a labour corps to serve in France. The Santals assaulted some of the minor officials who were helping in the work of recruitment, looted bazars and broke up the railway line. Order was temporarily restored by the despatch of the armed police reserves from Orissa and 100 infantry from Calcutta. In spite of assurances regarding the recruiting operations, the Santals continued to hold mass meetings in order to discuss various grievances against the administration, and in June a fresh rising occurred in the Bamanghati Subdivision, the bazar of Rairangpur being looted and burnt and a state constable murdered by the mob. Military Police were again called in and the disturbances were quelled by the end of the month. Many Santals were convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment for complicity in these disturbances.

Condition of the People.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year 1917-18.]

30. During the year the material condition of the people was affected in various ways by the war. Owing to the practical stoppage of imports and unscrupulous profiteering the prices of such indispensable commodities as salt, kerosine oil, cloth, and spices rose abnormally, and all classes of the population suffered in consequence. The situation was fortunately relieved to a partial extent by the comparative cheapness of rice and certain other food-stuffs. The import of salt and its supply at a fixed price was finally brought under Government control with successful results. A steady demand for labour and consequent high rates of wages helped the labouring classes, but the people, who have suffered most, were the poorer middle classes, and persons on small fixed incomes. The lack of railway facilities rendered difficult the marketing of agricultural produce, the price of which except for wheat, ruled considerably lower than in the previous years. Cultivators were in consequence short of cash for the payment of rent and for other necessary expenditure. Merchants also generally suffered from the shortage of wagons.

The rainfall during the year was somewhat ill distributed but harvest results were on the whole good. The heavy floods of August affected the different crops in the district of the Patna Division and *bhadoi* crops in the

districts of Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Hazaribagh and the Hajipur Subdivision of the district of Muzaffarpur, the loss in the latter being, however, amply compensated by a bumper *rabi* crop. Heavy rainfall and high floods in October and November also damaged the winter rice in parts of Cuttack, Puri and Manbhum. Want of seasonable rainfall, on the other hand, diminished the outturn of the *rabi* crop in the districts of Champaran, Darbhanga, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Purnea and Angul. Crops were again poor in the Chilka tract of the district of Puri where test works had to be resumed, but were closed in August. The test works in Singhbhum closed in the same month, and an excellent winter harvest enabled the cultivating classes of that area to make good what they had lost owing to the failure of crops in the previous two years.

The general health of the people was up to the average standard in the Bhagalpur and Orissa Divisions: Hazaribagh and the districts of the Tirhut Division suffered more than in the previous year from disease. There was the usual outbreak of cholera and small-pox in the district of Purnea and malaria and cholera claimed many victims in the Madhipura and Banki Subdivisions, respectively, of the districts of Bhagalpur and Cuttack. Plague made its appearance in Monghyr, Bhagalpur and in all the districts of the Tirhut Division. Cholera broke out in an epidemic form in Champaran and Darbhanga and malaria in South Manbhum, and in the Giridih Subdivision of the district of Hazaribagh.

There was a marked fall in the number of emigrants to the tea districts. Recruiting for labour in Mesopotamia and overseas went on briskly in all the divisions except Patna. The district of the Santal Parganas alone contributed 6,896 coolies for service in Mesopotamia and for the France Labour Corps.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realization of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year 1917-18.]

Collection of Land Revenue.

31. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 109,172 against 107,711 in the preceding year. The increase was, as usual, mainly due to partitions. The current demand amounted to Rs. 1,51,65,449, an increase of Rs. 7,938 which accrued mainly from estates held direct by Government. The percentage of total collections on total demands fell from 96·3 to 93·1 and was the lowest recorded since the creation of the province. This unusual fall was largely accounted for by the fact that the last three days for the March *kist* of 1918 fell within the Holi and Easter holidays, and heavy payments, which were actually made after the close of the year, could not be shown in the annual figures. A sum of Rs. 1,06,208 was remitted as a result mainly of alterations in the *kist* dates in certain government estates, and of special concessions allowed to those tenants of the Damin-i-koh government estate in the Santal Parganas who enlisted in the France Labour Corps.

Operations of the Sale Law.

32. The number of estates which became liable to sale for non-payment of land revenue was 8,099; of these 426 were actually sold against 449 in the preceding year. The amount realized by sale was Rs. 3,81,641 or 10·6 times the government revenue of the properties sold, against 10·3 times in 1916-17. Nine estates with a revenue demand of Rs. 1,043 were bought in on behalf of Government. One hundred and thirty-five appeals were preferred to Commissioners against sales, of which 24 were successful ; twenty cases were recommended to the Board for annulment on the ground of hardship, all of which except two were accepted by the Board. There were five sales of Chaukidari Chakran lands, all in the district of Monghyr. No estates were sold in the Chota Nagpur Division under Act XI of 1859 and none in Sambalpur under the Central Provinces Land Revenue Act, 1881.

Redemption of Land Revenue.

33. One estate formed by partition under the old Act of 1876 with a demand of less than one rupee in the district of Muzaffarpur was redeemed.

Miscellaneous Revenue.

34. The total collections of miscellaneous revenue, including those from forest lands in government estates, were Rs. 9,84,486 compared with Rs. 11,47,265 in the preceding year. The decline in the total receipts was mainly due to the heavy decrease in the recovery of survey and settlement charges which counterbalanced the increase in the combined totals of fines, forfeitures of Revenue Courts, miscellaneous rents and other receipts. The total amount of remissions was Rs. 23,387 against Rs. 19,875 in the previous year.

Sale of Government estates.

35. There were no sales of government lands in any districts of the Patna, Orissa and Chota Nagpur Divisions. Two small plots of government land and one plot of railway 'B' class land, with a total area of 22·13625 acres were sold for Rs. 1,577.

Payment of Revenue and Rent by Money orders.

36. Money orders issued for the payment of land revenue and cesses and the amounts covered by them were 183,052 and Rs. 14,12,639 against 182,960 and Rs. 13,76,614 respectively, in 1916-17. The average value of orders rose from Rs. 7·52 to Rs. 7·71. The total number of orders for the payment of rent rose from 37,029 to 38,959, but there was a falling off in the amount covered by them from Rs. 5,26,433 to Rs. 5,04,735. No money orders were issued in the district of Manbhum and only four in Ranchi. It was satisfactory to find a fall from 22·9 to 20·2 in the percentage of refusals.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Certificate Procedure.

37. The number of certificates filed, excluding those in cess accounts, fell from 36,511 to 34,378. Disposal kept pace with institutions in the Patna, Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur Divisions. The total number of cases pending at the close of the year dropped from 10,314 to 7,831 while those pending over six months dropped from 3,085 to 1,535. Sales were set aside in 277 cases against 483 in the previous year.

Land Registration.

38. The number of applications for registration of succession of proprietary interests in land, by purchase, inheritance gift or otherwise was 53,624, inclusive of 9,883 cases pending at the close of the preceding year; of these 43,634 were disposed of. In Sambalpur 266 mutations were registered under section 125 of the Central Provinces Land Revenue Act, 1881. The registers were reported to be in good order and progress was made in rewriting. No case of fraudulent registration was brought to light during the year.

Partition.

39. The number of partition cases instituted and disposed of was 439 and 442; in 1916-17 the figures were 415 and 492, respectively. The number of cases pending at the close of the year fell from 992 to 989 and those pending for over two years from 401 to 317.

Surveys.

[Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in the Province of Bihar and Orissa, 1917-18.]

Outturn of the year.

40. The programme of the traverse survey was 732 square miles in the district of Manbhum, the cost rate being Rs. 37·3 a square mile against Rs. 39·63 in the preceding year. Thirteen miscellaneous petty surveys were undertaken and completed.

Bihar and Orissa Drawing office.

41. The Imperial Standard Mapping Section was employed on the compilation and fair-mapping of 2-inch and 1½-inch originals for reduction to the inch scale; the work of completing margins was also in progress and hills were inserted on sheets which did not already show them, the data being drawn from old material and 16 inch cadastral survey sheets.

In the provincial section the ½-inch map of the district of Sambalpur was completed and the preparation of a ½-inch map of the district of Ranchi was taken in hand.

Nineteen thana maps on 51 sheets falling in the districts of Hazaribagh, Ranchi and Gaya were completed. There was a small increase in cost rate, reflecting the rise in the price of cloth, paper, chemicals and stationery.

Land Records and Settlements.

[Report of the Director of Land Records and Surveys, Bihar and Orissa, for the year ending 30th September 1918.]

General.

42. Survey and Settlement Operations were in progress during the year in seven districts of the province. The programme of cadastral survey included no original areas. In revision 1,596 square miles were surveyed and preliminary records prepared. Attestation extended over 1,740 square miles and final publication over 2,642 square miles. The rents of 1,00,100 tenants were settled.

Future Programme.

43. The traverse survey of the district of Manbhum (excluding Parganas Barabhum and Patkum), which was commenced from the year 1916-17, will be completed by 1920-21. Survey and record-of-rights of the Banki government estate in the district of Cuttack was begun.

The revisional operations in the Kodarma government estate in Hazaribagh and those in Muzaffarpur and in Angul which were to have been taken up during the year were postponed.

Settlement Staff.

44. Four Settlement Officers were employed of whom three were Civilian officers in charge of the major settlements in South Bihar, North Bihar and Chota Nagpur and the fourth was a Deputy Collector who held charge of the revision settlement operations of the Banki government estate. The maximum number of Assistant Settlement Officers employed was 82

against 80 in the preceding year: of these 57 were employed in North Bihar, 2 in South Bihar and 23 in Chota Nagpur. One junior Civilian Officer and four Munsifs were deputed for settlement training. Three district kanungos were also trained.

Permanently-settled Estates, South Bihar, Gaya.

45. The year's programme in Gaya included the disposal of cases under sections 105 and 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, recovery of costs, deposit of records with the Collector and the winding up of the operations.

Recovery of costs.

46. Of the total demand of Rs. 37,402 the whole amount was recovered with the exception of Rs. 336, since made over to the Collector for realization.

Cost.

47. The direct cost incurred during the year was Rs. 22,962 and the indirect cost amounted to Rs. 2,857 including the cost of the Director of Land Records and Surveys' share of control, calculated at Rs. 614. Receipts amounted to Rs. 12,969. The final report on the operations was prepared for publication.

Chota Nagpur Settlement, Programme and staff.

48. Survey and settlement operations were in progress in the districts of Singhbhum and Palamau throughout the year, and for one month only in the district of Hazaribagh. The staff during the field season included two Civilian Officers, 8 Deputy Collectors, 3 Munsifs and 11 Sub-Deputy Collectors. The number of assistant settlement officers employed during the field season and recess was 23 and 15 respectively.

Hazaribagh.

49. In Hazaribagh there remained only the disposal of cases under section 85 (2) (*ii*) of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, and recovery by certificate procedure of the small balance outstanding. The fair rent settlement of twenty-two villages of the Hata Mahal government estate and of the government estate village of Kendua in Chauparan thana was completed; and a note on the results obtained was written as a supplement to Chapter XI of the final report.

Cost.

50. The total estimated cost was Rs. 17,14,865, of which Rs. 13,07,272 was recovered from landlords and tenants, the balance being borne by the Government of India. From the surplus a sum of Rs. 13,812 was assigned for the up-keep of boundary marks.

Final Report.

51. The final report on these operations was published and submitted to the Government of India.

Palamau.

52. The programme in Palamau consisted of attestation and draft publication of 969 square miles, disposal of objections under sections 83 (1) and 111 (6) of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, in the area under attestation with cases pending from the previous year, settlement recess work of the attested area, final publication of the records of 1,142 square miles attested in 1916-17, recovery of costs in the area of 1,419 square miles the records of which had been attested in 1915-16, disposal of cases under section 87 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, and computation of costs for the settlement operations in the third season's area of 1,147 square miles.

Agrarian conditions in Palamau.

53. The economic condition of the general body of the tenantry in the area under attestation during the year was found to be no better than in the remainder of the district: and the poverty of the average worker was proved by the extent to which the *kamia* system prevails. The conditions imposed by this system of labour both in Palamau and in other parts of the province are now under the consideration of the Local Government.

In order to improve the relations between landlords and tenants in the district, rates for fair rent settlement were sanctioned by the Local Government as an experimental measure.

Cost.

54. The estimated total cost is Rs. 12,15,624. To the one-fourth share payable by Government an additional one-tenth share of the balance is also to be paid by Government in consideration of the poverty of the district. The sum recoverable from landlords and tenants amounts to Rs. 8,20,546 with an additional Rs. 17,426 for the maintenance of boundary marks, of which Rs. 3,54,145 have so far been collected.

Singhbhum. The Kolhan Government Estate.

55. Operations in the Kolhan government estate were brought to a close and the records deposited in the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum. The programme for the year consisted of final publication of the records of 731 square miles, disposal of post publication suits, and fair rent settlement under section 85(2)(*ii*) of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908.

The total cost of the operations up to the time of their conclusion in September 1918 was Rs. 3,39,046.

North Bihar Revision Settlement, Saran and Champaran.

56. In North Bihar revisional operations were in progress in the two districts of Saran and Champaran.

Saran.

57. In Saran the year's programme for preliminary record-writing included the whole of the sadr subdivision covering 1,002 square miles, less 103 square miles of excluded *diara*. This area was found to contain 2,367,311 plots. The settlement programme comprised the attestation and draft-publication of the records of 1,503 villages in the Siwan Subdivision, disposal of objections under section 103A of the Bengal Tenancy Act in the area under attestation, final publication of the records of the villages of the Gopalganj Subdivision, settlement recess of the attestation area, preparation of cess revaluation rolls for the same area and case work under sections 105, 106 and 40 of the Bengal Tenancy Act from the Gopalganj Subdivision.

There were 3,620 trijunction points in the area surveyed during the year. It was instructive to find the marks intact at only 1,936 places.

Features of attestation work in Saran.

58. The large number of petty proprietors, the amorcellement of their estates and subdivision by private partition into *pattis* involving the multiplication of *khewats* and *khatians* made attestation tedious and troublesome. Since the last settlement the number of estates has increased from 5,373 to 6,824 and minute scrutiny was necessary to prevent the attestation of illegal enhancements resulting from the division of rents. In more recent partitions, it was found that care had been taken to apportion only the existing rents between the newly-formed estates, but the case was different where partition had commenced before the last settlement and was still incomplete when it closed.

Rent receipts.

59. Seventeen cases of failure on the part of landlords to grant rent receipts were reported. Fines were inflicted in four cases only and in seven the landlords were discharged with a warning.

The raiyats of Saran are both independent and enterprising, and their relations with their landlords are generally amicable. Many were however still ignorant of their statutory right of occupancy in holdings which pay a produce-rent.

Cost of operations in Saran.

60. The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 2,48,548. Deducting the receipts, which amounted to Rs. 1,46,261, the net expenditure was Rs. 1,02,287 or Rs. 126-9-4 a square mile.

Champaran.

61. In the district of Champaran case work under sections 40, 105 and 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act was in progress and has since been completed. The Settlement Officer was declared the authority under the Champaran Agrarian Act for the revision of rents.

Recovery of cost of operations in Champaran.

62. Of the total demand of Rs. 3,42,205 for the costs of settlement the amount collected during the year by voluntary payments was Rs. 2,38,602; by certificate procedure, Rs. 11,660; the balance of Rs. 91,942 is being collected.

Banki Government Estate in Cuttack.

63. The year's programme for the Banki government estate consisted of the cadastral survey and preliminary record-writing, both field and recess, of the whole area. The programme was completed in full. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 14,794. The cost rate for each square mile excluding auxiliary and indirect charges was Rs. 108-13-0.

64. In accordance with the sanctioned scheme for the preparation of new maps and records for the district of Sambalpur, maps were prepared during the year under report for 386 villages covering an area of 672 square miles, and records were revised for 402 villages containing 363,785 plots. A number of patwaris were trained in drawing and the maps which they prepared were generally neat and clean. Good conduct allowances were sanctioned for 81 patwaris and an allowance at the rate of Rs. 2 a month was given to those who worked in recess. **Maintenance of Land Records in Sambalpur.**

65. The usual steps for the maintenance of boundary marks were taken. Special Ganges Diara Reference Pillars in the districts of Patna and Monghyr which had been washed away were restored; and those found in precarious positions liable to fluvial action were re-erected on safer ground. **Maintenance of boundary marks.**

Government Estates.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year 1917-18.]

66. The total number of estates under direct management including 61 estates managed by Government for private individuals was 303 against 297 in the previous year with a current demand of Rs. 18,53,703 against Rs. 18,45,826. Expenses fell from Rs. 1,47,953 to Rs. 1,43,655, and the percentage on current demand from 8 to 7·74. **Number and management of Government Estates.**

67. Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 1,26,166, Rs. 19,843 were spent on tanks and wells, Rs. 34,832 on drainage, irrigation and embankments, Rs. 30,663 on roads and bridges and the remainder Rs. 41,628 on miscellaneous objects including tree-planting. Angul received a special grant of Rs. 10,845 from hide license fees; it was spent on works of improvement. **Improvements.**

68. In accordance with the decision of Government to pay to the District Boards cess at the full rate of 6¼ per cent on the total amount of rent collected in estates, the property of Government, the grants on account of primary education and improvements of roads and communications were discontinued with effect from 1916-17 except in the districts of Angul and Sambalpur where the Cess Act is not in force. Although the Cess Act was extended to the Kolhan government estate in Singhbhum with effect from the 1st September 1917, the grants were not discontinued during the year under report. In Singhbhum there was an increase in the number both of schools and of pupils. Communications were maintained in proper efficiency under the District Boards and Road Committees. **Education, roads and communications.**

69. The material condition of the tenants of the government estates in the Tirhut, Orissa and Chota Nagpur Divisions was on the whole satisfactory. In most districts of the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions *bhadoi* crops were damaged either through excessive rainfall or through floods, while *rabi* crops suffered for want of rain. In Monghyr but for liberal *Takavi* loans it would have been impossible for the tenants to cultivate their lands. In the Santal Parganas the raiyats were fairly prosperous. Owing to excessive and untimely rainfall the outturn of crops in Banki government estates in Cuttack was below the normal. In Angul the *rabi* crops suffered to a considerable extent from heavy rainfall in October. In Palamau the failure of lac combined with the abnormal prices of salt and clothing caused considerable distress among the poorer classes; but the successful harvest of the year helped them to meet the situation. A good harvest in the Kolhan government estate in Singhbhum restored prosperity to the raiyats who had suffered from unfavourable agricultural conditions for three successive years. No epidemic disease was reported from any government estate in the districts of the Tirhut, Orissa and with exception of Hazaribagh in the Chota Nagpur Division. Villages of government estates in the Patna Division were attacked by plague and some estates in Monghyr by cholera. **Conditions of raiyats.**

Wards, Attached, Trust and Encumbered Estates.

[Report on the Administration of Wards, Attached, Trust and Encumbered Estates for the year 1917-18.]

70. Seven new estates were taken under management during the year and fourteen were released. The total number of estates under management at the **Number of Estates under management.**

close of the year was 148 of which 94 were managed under the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act, 1876.

Payment of Government demands.

71. The percentage of the payment of revenue and cesses due to Government was 88·5 of the total demand.

Rent and cesses due to superior landlords.

72. The percentage of payment of rent and cesses to superior landlords was 61·9 as against 56·8 in the preceding year.

Collection of rent and cesses due to Estates.

73. The percentage of collections on the current demand was 93·06 as against 102·3 in the preceding year, the standard of 100 per cent being exceeded in the Patna and Orissa Divisions.

Balances of rent and cesses due to Estates.

74. The outstanding balances of rent and cesses due to all estates amounted to Rs. 47,29,935 or 83·5 per cent on the current demand as compared with 74·5 per cent in the preceding year. The disturbed state of the district of Champaran was responsible for a number of thikadars and a high proportion of the tenants of the Bettiah Estate failing to make payment punctually and economic difficulties due to the shortage of railway transport were held to account for the low percentage of collections in other cases.

Management Charges.

75. In the percentage of the cost of management on the current rent and cess demand there was a small increase from 11·1 per cent in the preceding year to 11·2 per cent in the current year, the standard of 10 per cent being exceeded in the Patna, Tirhut and Orissa Divisions.

Improvements.

76. The total amount spent on works of improvements was Rs. 1,71,674 and that on schools, dispensaries and charities was Rs. 1,50,380 of which about Rs. 73,759 were incurred in the Bettiah Estate.

Education of Wards.

77. The education of wards continued to receive attention and the results were generally satisfactory.

Revenue and Rent-paying classes.

[Land Revenue Administration Report, 1917-18.]

Tenancy Acts.

78. Amendments which have been prepared in certain sections of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act and of the Bengal Tenancy Act were under the consideration of the Board of Revenue, as a preliminary to the preparation of Bills for public criticism.

Progress in the granting of proper rent receipts is slow, and a large number of landlords still neglect to observe the prescribed forms.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

79. The controversy over the commutation of produce-rents still disturbed relations between landlords and tenants in Gaya. The 12,169 cases under section 40 of the Bengal Tenancy Act pending at the close of the year were almost entirely applications filed before the officers of the Settlement Department which are to be tried, on the conclusion of the settlement, by special officers under the supervision of the Collector.

Disputes, connected largely with the cultivation of indigo, had estranged the relations between landlords and tenants in parts of Champaran for some years, and the tension had been increased by the intervention of Mr. Gandhi. A committee of enquiry was appointed, and the more important of its recommendations were embodied in the Champaran Agrarian Bill, which became law at the close of the year.

In Palamau the survey and settlement operations have brought to light the wide prevalence of illegal enhancements of rent, dispossession of raiyats and general insecurity of tenure, and as in other districts of the Chota Nagpur Division, jungle rights were a further source of dispute. The orders passed by Government, will, it is hoped, result in a general observance of the law by the landlords of that district in the matter of these elementary rights of the cultivators.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislative Authority.

[Also refer for this to Bihar and Orissa Administration Report, 1911-12, Chapter III, pages 144—148.]

Legislative Authority.

80. The only change in the personnel of the non-official members of Council was that the Hon'ble Mr. J. V. Jameson replaced the Hon'ble Mr. D. J. Reid who had resigned his seat as the representative of the planting community. In connection with the legislation which resulted in the passing of the Champaran Agrarian Act, 1918, the Hon'ble Mr. P. Kennedy was nominated as expert member for three months from 28th November 1917, the period being subsequently extended till 15th April 1918.

Course of Legislation.

81. Four meetings of the Legislative Council were held. The following four Bills were introduced:—

1. The Champaran Agrarian Bill, 1917.
2. The Bihar and Orissa Irrigation Bill, 1918.
3. The Bihar and Orissa Primary Education Bill, 1918.
4. The Patna University (Amendment) Bill, 1918.

The first and the last were passed into law during, and the second and the third after the close of the year.

The Champaran Agrarian Act, 1918.

82. The Champaran Agrarian Act, 1918, gave effect to recommendations made by the committee appointed to inquire into disputes in the district of Champaran between landlords and their tenants with particular reference to incidents connected with indigo cultivation in that district.

The Bihar and Orissa Irrigation Bill, 1918.

83. The Bihar and Orissa Irrigation Bill, 1918, amends the existing law by providing that when eighty-five per cent of the occupiers of the rice lands of any local area apply to the canal officer for a supply of water, the recalcitrant minority shall, if the application be granted, be liable to water-rate, and that occupiers of lands which benefit from canal water used in an unauthorized manner shall also be liable.

The Bihar and Orissa Primary Education Bill, 1918.

84. The Bihar and Orissa Primary Education Bill, 1918, aims at the extension of primary education in the province by enabling Municipalities, District Boards and similar rural authorities with the sanction of the Local Government, to make the primary education of children between six and ten years of age within their jurisdiction compulsory, and to provide the necessary funds by the imposition of an education cess.

The Patna University (Amendment) Act, 1918.

85. This Act enables ordinary Fellows and ordinary members of the Syndicate of the Patna University appointed under the Patna University Act, 1917, to resign office, and the Chancellor to appoint to casual vacancies in the existing Senate and Syndicate.

Police.

[The Report on the Administration of the Police Department for the year 1917.—Statistics of British India, Part VI.—Administrative and Judicial.]

Force.

86. There was little change of importance in the cadre of the superior Police Service. The post of Additional Superintendent of Police at Dhanbad, which had previously been maintained on a temporary basis, was made permanent. An additional post of Deputy Superintendent was also created. Deputations

to the army, and other duties connected with the war, coupled with the impossibility of reopening recruitment under war conditions, have caused the temporary disappearance of the junior half of the Imperial Service, there being at the end of the year only two officers left to fill the twenty-seven posts in the grades of Assistant Superintendent. Three more officers were placed on deputation during the year in connection with the war, Mr. Mackenzie going on special duty to superintend the purchase of mica in Hazaribagh and Messrs. Cumming and Jackson being allowed to join the Indian Army Reserve of Officers. More European Inspectors were allowed to join the Indian Army Reserve of Officers or to proceed to France with Labour Corps.

The increase in the sanctioned strength of the force during the year amounted only to 25 officers and 81 men. The actual strength fell short of the sanctioned strength by 59 officers and 229 constables. Casualties in the force remained almost unchanged, and resignations accounted for 37 per cent of the casualties as against 35 per cent in the preceding year.

The literacy of the force remained the same as last year, all the officers and 59 per cent of the men being able to read and write. The fact that of the 64 newly-recruited Sub-Inspectors 5 had passed the B. A. examination and 6 the I. A. affords reason to hope that the police service is beginning to attract a superior type of recruit.

Military Police.

87. Both companies of Military Police were employed in the suppression of serious disturbances. The Ranchi Company assisted in the suppression of the Santal rising in Mayurbhanj and later in the year was employed in connection with the Bakr-Id disturbances in Patna and Shahabad. The Bhagalpur Company was summoned to Shahabad at the commencement of the disturbances. Both companies maintained the high traditions which have characterized their work in preceding years. The health of the Ranchi Company suffered in consequence of their employment in unhealthy tracts, and the percentage of admissions to hospital amounted to 142 per cent as against 85 per cent last year. Service in both companies is popular ; there were only five vacancies in the Bhagalpur, and none in the Ranchi Company. A general increase in pay was sanctioned during the year for both companies.

Additional Police.

88. Two forces of additional police were maintained in the east of the Patna district owing to the Bakr-Id disturbances of 1916, and the District Magistrate attributes the fact that his district remained quiet during the corresponding festival in 1917 to the presence of the additional police and the levy of their cost from the persons whose lawless behaviour had necessitated their appointment. The Bakr-Id disturbances of 1917 in Shahabad required the creation of a very large force of additional police, comprising 100 armed sowars and 300 armed and unarmed constables with a full staff of officers.

Discipline.

89. There was an increase in the number of officers and men rewarded and a decrease both in judicial and in departmental punishments. Only two officers were punished judicially under the Police Act and none under the Penal Code or any other law. In departmental proceedings major punishments including dismissals fell from 149 to 83 in the case of officers and from 650 to 446 in that of men. On the other hand, there was a great increase in the number of charges brought by private persons against the Police, no less than 132 such charges being made as against 88 in 1916. As usual, a high percentage of the cases was found on magisterial inquiry to be groundless, but 56 were held to be sufficiently substantiated to form the basis of judicial proceedings, against 16 in 1916; 11 convictions were obtained, and there were 19 acquittals. In a large number of cases where the accused succeeded in effecting a compromise suitable departmental action was taken.

The results of the prosecution of persons who brought false charges against the police were excellent, 9 convictions being obtained out of 10 cases in which proceedings were instituted.

Rural Police.

90. The working of the rural police force remained somewhat unsatisfactory. On the occasion of the Bakr-Id riots in Shahabad the rural police

not only failed to report the preparations for the disturbances, of which they were well aware, but assisted in the collection of the mobs and themselves took part in the rioting. Many of them sought to avoid punishment by giving information at the police-station when it was too late, but even then often attempted to screen the offenders by giving false accounts of the rioting.

91. There was a general decrease in ordinary crime, due doubtless to the agricultural prosperity of most parts of the province. Certain forms of serious crime, however, showed an increase. There were 213 true cases of dacoity as against 179 in the previous year. Most of the increase was accounted for by the abnormal prevalence of this form of crime during the Bakr-Id disturbances in Shahabad. The work of suppressing the Manbhum gangs suffered a serious set-back owing to the escape of three of the principal leaders from the Purulia jail, as a result of the treachery of the jail staff. **Ordnary Crime.**

There were 91 cases of robbery in the Hazaribagh district, most of which were due to Gopia Bhuiya's gang. After the close of the year this notorious desperado was murdered by his principal lieutenant, who has himself been arrested.

92. There was a slight rise in the proportion of cases declared maliciously false to the total reported crime. The districts of Shahabad, Gaya, Saran, and Palamau showed a further increase in this form of crime, while the appearance of Champaran in the list was due to the disturbed conditions of that district and increased resort to the criminal courts. **False cases.**

93. Attention was drawn last year to the delay which had occurred for some years in the disposal of cases in Patna, Hazaribagh and Monghyr, and it was satisfactory to find a considerable improvement in these districts. The improvement in Patna is particularly creditable. Gaya, Shahabad, Saran and all districts of Chota Nagpur except Hazaribagh deteriorated in this respect. In Manbhum, Palamau and Purnea no less than 10 per cent of the cases took more than six hearings. On the other hand, in Champaran, Balasore, Angul, Sambalpur and Singhbhum such cases only numbered 2 per cent. **Remands.**

94. Though no overt political crime occurred, satisfactory progress was made in following up the workings of the revolutionary emissaries who have long been endeavouring to create an anarchist party in Bihar and Orissa. In July 1917, the Criminal Investigation Department received a much needed increase of strength, and since then they have been able to obtain a grip on the movement and to render harmless some of the more important conspirators. Thirteen residents of the province were dealt with under the Defence of India Act and interned by the Local Government usually with relatives or at their homes. **Political crime.**

95. The most notable feature of the year's record of crime was the great outbreak of rioting in the districts of Shahabad and Gaya immediately after the Bakr-Id. The first riot occurred at a village named Ibrahimpur, near Piru, on the morning of September 28th, where in spite of the conclusion of a compromise between the local Hindus and Muhammadans, a large body of Hindus from other villages attacked and looted the village. The rioters dispersed as quickly as they had appeared ; and since the compromise had been thus broken the Muhammadans performed the sacrifice according to their custom. On the morning of the 30th a mob which numbered between 25,000 and 50,000 men attacked Ibrahimpur, Piru, and the surrounding villages. After a prolonged contest with the police, during which much looting occurred and the police-station was attacked, the mobs were dispersed. Strong reinforcements of Military Police were brought into the district and for thirty-six hours, during which forces of police patrolled the surrounding country, everything remained quiet to outward appearance. On October 2nd, however, rioting and looting broke out simultaneously over the greater portion of the district without further warning. For six days law and order disappeared. The Muhammadans were attacked by great mobs, their houses were destroyed and their property carried away. In the south of the district, where the Muhammadans offered a brave resistance, desperate fights attended by considerable bloodshed occurred at Mauna and Turkbigha. The mobs were in **Bakr-Id riots.**

many cases led by small zamindars, and contained a large element of the more influential Hindus of the countryside, including Brahmans, Rajputs, Babhans and Kayasthas.

During this period strong detachments of troops arrived at Arrah. Great difficulties were experienced in coming to close quarters with the numerous and mobile bodies of rioters. But as soon as it became possible to establish posts in different mufassal centres and to connect them with patrols along the main roads, the movement collapsed.

On the 9th similar disturbances broke out in the adjoining part of the Gaya District. Over 30 villages were looted, but by this time troops were near at hand, and the movement was crushed by the 13th.

Mortality caused by wild animals and snakes.

(Report on the mortality caused by wild animals and venomous snakes and the measures adopted for their destruction in Bihar and Orissa during the year 1917.)

Wild animals.

96. The number of persons killed by wild animals was 655 against 847 in the previous year. The decrease was shared by all districts, except Ranchi, Bhagalpur, Balasore and Darbhanga. Tigers alone accounted for more than one-half of the deaths and the districts mainly responsible were, as in the previous year, Angul, Singhbhum, Ranchi, Manbhum, Cuttack, Hazaribagh, Sambalpur and Palamau.

Snakes.

97. The number of deaths from snake-bite was 5,885 against 5,970 in the previous year. The figures still continue to be very high in almost all the districts.

Destruction of wild animals.

98. The number of wild animals destroyed rose from 888 to 1,046. The rewards paid for the destruction of wild animals and snakes was Rs. 5,921 against Rs. 5,257 in the previous year.

Criminal Justice.

Judicial and Magisterial Staff.

99. Twelve Sessions Judges were employed throughout the year. Criminal work in Patna, Shahabad, Manbhum-Sambalpur and Gaya, where Additional District and Sessions Judges had been employed for various periods throughout the year, has been consistently heavy and the suggestion had been made that at least two Additional District and Sessions Judges should, in consequence, be permanently added to the cadre. During the past year, however, by means of vesting further Subordinate Judges with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge it was found possible to dispense with additional Sessions Judges except in two instances and those for short periods. In Gaya the Additional Sessions Judge, appointed in 1916, continued up till the 15th February and in Manbhum-Sambalpur an Additional District and Sessions Judge was employed for about two months in the trial of an important gang case.

The magisterial staff of the province at the close of the year consisted of 241 stipendiary and 325 Honorary Magistrates. Of the Honorary Magistrates three were Special Magistrates under section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, namely, the Executive Engineers of the Arrah, Sikrol and Agiaon Divisions, who try cases only under the Irrigation and Embankment Acts. Of the 241 stipendiary Magistrates 167 exercised first, 50 second and 24 third class powers.

Offences reported.

100. There were 98,048 criminal offences reported consisting of 64,959 offences under the Penal Code, and 33,089 under special and local laws. These figures exceed those of 1916 by 1,781 and 2,619 respectively. There was an increase in the number of offences in 15 districts of which Purnea and Saran were the most notable. In Purnea the increase (1,173) occurred mostly under offences against property and was attributed by the District Magistrate to the fact that the poorer classes had been affected by the rise in the price of necessaries, while in Saran the increase (1,098) was said to be due

partly to petty assault cases arising out of disputes connected with the revisional survey and partly to the violation of the District Board by-laws by the local cartmen. The most noteworthy decreases occurred in Puri and Singhbhum.

101. The number of cases which were found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed was 22,893 or 23·3 per cent of the number reported, which almost identical with the percentage for 1916 (23·2). Complaints were dismissed in 20,447 cases, or 1,396 more than in 1916. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry was 2,446 or 299 less than in 1916. **Cases found to be false.**

102. Of the total number of cases under inquiry, 74,584 were found to be true, and of these 60,110 were brought to trial, showing an increase over the previous year of 2,137 and 2,341, respectively. **Cases found to be true.**

Original Jurisdiction.

I.—Magistrates' Courts.

103. At the opening of the year 1,660 cases were pending before Magistrates. 60,111 cases were brought to trial including references under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure; 60,034 cases were disposed of and 1,716 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of cases decided exceeded that of 1916 by 2,171. The number of cases brought to trial exceeded that of 1916 by 2,321. The increase was mainly in offences affecting the human body (1,458) and in offences under special and local laws (2,217). The increase was most marked in Muzaffarpur (651), Saran (635), Shahabad (607) and Purnea (539). A decrease was reported from seven districts and was most marked in Puri (483), Hazaribagh (302) and Purnea (295). **Cases disposed of.**

The disposals were distributed as follows:—

—	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily.
1	2	3
District Magistrates	69	7
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates	41,307	6,842
Honorary Magistrates	7,511	226
Benches of Magistrates	2,802	1,216
Special Magistrates	15	...

Of the cases tried regularly by District Magistrates, the Deputy Commissioners of Singhbhum, Hazaribagh and Palamau disposed of 23 cases in exercise of special powers under section 30 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

104. Of the total number of cases shown in the preceding paragraph, 556 were committed or referred to the Sessions and 59,478 were finally disposed of by magistrates. In these latter, 95,437 persons were accused, against 91,135 in the previous year, and of these, 44,923, or 47·07 per cent were convicted and 50,514 or 52·93 per cent were acquitted or discharged. The figures for 1916 were 49·3 per cent and 50·7 per cent respectively. These figures by themselves are somewhat misleading and have to be qualified by the statement that out of 50,514 persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of no less than 30,002 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. The percentage of convictions, therefore, of persons actually tried was 68·6 which is ·7 per cent less than in 1916. **Results of trials.**

Of the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 18,436 or 31·5 per cent were convicted and 40,164 or 68·5 per cent were acquitted or discharged. Excluding the cases of 22,995 persons compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default, the percentage of convictions was 51·8 against 54·6 in the previous year.

The total number of persons awaiting trial before magistrates at the close of 1917 was 4,421 compared with 3,830 in 1916. The number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 435, against 308 at the end of 1916.

The general result of trials before magistrates of each class was as follows :—

—	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
1	2	3	4
Benches of Magistrates	2,457	3,352	57·7
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates ...	42,627	35,032	45·1
Honorary Magistrates	5,343	6,344	54·3
Special Magistrates	4	28	87·5
District Magistrates	83	167	66·8

Of the persons shown above as convicted the following were tried summarily—by Benches of Magistrates, 1,362, by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates, 7,107, by Honorary Magistrates 168 and by District Magistrates, 70.

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows:—

—	Appealable sentences.		Non-appealable sentences.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917
1	2	3	4	5
On regular trial	24,744	24,141	9,990	11,937
On summary trial	2,275	1,564	7,722	7,050

Punishments.

105. The sentences passed on the persons convicted were as follows :—

Imprisonment	Rigorous	8,745
	Simple	349
Fine ...	With imprisonment	1,683
	Without imprisonment	34,217
Whipping ...	Sole punishment	332
	Additional punishment	3

Terms of solitary confinement were included in 67 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment. 29 youthful offenders were sentenced to detention in a Reformatory School.

565 persons were called upon to give security for good behaviour, and of these 554 were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding one year on failing to comply with the orders. 189 persons were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Of the sentences of imprisonment passed, 1,683 were for terms not exceeding 15 days; 5,981 for terms not exceeding six months; 1,900 for terms not exceeding two years; and 55 for terms exceeding two years. The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 3,32,109. During the year Rs. 2,69,701 were realized and Rs. 41,736 were paid as compensation to complainants out of fines.

106. There were 484 proceedings involving 2,445 persons under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, showing a decrease of 78 and 213 respectively, compared with 1916. 326 persons were bound down. **Miscellaneous proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure.**

776 persons in 472 cases were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 660. Of these, 641 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 69 of them after reference to the Court of Sessions under section 123 of the Code, and 572 under orders of magistrates for terms not exceeding one year.

Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under Chapter X of the Code were taken in 942 cases and in the cases of 12 persons a reference was made to a jury under section 138 of the Code. The number of cases under Chapter XII of the Code involving questions of the possession of land decided by magistrates during the year was 1,091, an increase of 113 on the figures for 1916.

Under section 250 of the Code, 396 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons. Proceedings for maintenance under Chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 432 persons, of whom 101 were ordered to give maintenance.

107. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of magistrates was 148,033 compared with 157,230 in 1916. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 53,929 or 26·7 per cent of the whole number in attendance. In the preceding year the percentage was 25·6. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of attendance fell from Rs. 52,089 in 1916 to Rs. 50,901. **Witnesses.**

Of the total number in attendance 152,973 (75·8 per cent) were discharged on the first day; 37,902 (18·8 per cent) on the second; 8,801 (4·3 per cent) on the third and 2,286 (1·1 per cent) after the third day. The percentages in 1916 were 77·7, 17·2, 3·8 and 1·3 respectively.

II.—Courts of Session.

108. The number of cases committed for trial or referred was 556, and the number disposed of, including the pending cases of the previous year, was 549. These figures show a decrease of 76 and 93 respectively, on the figures for the preceding year. There were 104 cases pending at the close of the year. **Commitments, etc.**

Commitments increased in the Santal Parganas from 26 to 40, in Manbhum-Sambalpur from 38 to 50, in Muzaffarpur from 33 to 43 and in Saran from 59 to 66. The numbers fell in Gaya from 42 to 26, in Patna from 49 to 35, in Monghyr from 50 to 36 and in Hazaribagh from 21 to 8.

109. The number of persons under trial before Courts of Session was 1,643 against 1,938 in 1916. The cases of 1,338 persons were decided and of 292 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 1,338 persons tried 853 or 63·7 per cent against 940 or 58·6 per cent in 1916, were convicted **Results of trials.**

and 465 were acquitted or discharged, while the cases of 20 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

110. The following sentences were passed by the Courts of Session during the year :—

Death			7
Transportation	For life		79
	For a term of years		17
Imprisonment	Rigorous		657
	Simple		4
Fine			87
Whipping			3

Four out of the seven death sentences were passed in Manbhum-Sambalpur.

In the cases of 2 out of 657 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences included terms of solitary confinement. 75 of the sentences of fine and 2 of whipping were additional punishments. Besides the above, 69 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (2 for a term not exceeding one year and 67 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour; and 18 persons who had been convicted of an offence involving a breach of the peace, were required to execute bonds with sureties to keep the peace in addition to their substantive punishment. Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms :—

Not exceeding	15 days	3
	6 months	95
	2 years	228
	7 years	370
Exceeding 7 years		34

Fines to the amount of Rs. 9,467 were imposed by Courts of Session, compared with Rs. 13,246 in the preceding year. The total realizations amounted to Rs. 3,288 compared with Rs. 4,749 in 1916. The compensation awarded to complainants out of fines realized was Rs. 835.

Jury Trial.

111. Patna was the only jury district and the number of persons tried by jury was 58. The Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the jury in respect of 57 persons and in the case of one person disagreed and made a reference to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The verdict of the jury was set aside.

Trial by Assessors.

112. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors was 1,137. In the cases of 730 persons, the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the assessors; in the cases of 187 he differed from the opinion of one; and in the cases of 220 he differed from the opinion of both. The corresponding figures for 1916 were 1,291, 849, 149 and 293 respectively.

Duration of Cases.

113. The average duration of Sessions trials from the date of commitment to the date of decision was 52·7 days compared with 56·1 days in 1916. Notice was, as usual, taken by the High Court of all cases of unusual duration. The duration of cases was specially high in the districts of Sambalpur (117·5), Saran (73·5), Palamau (69·7), and Puri (63·8). The figures for Sambalpur are specially bad and the delay was attributed by the Sessions

Judge to the fact that when he took over charge at the end of 1916 a heavy file of Sessions cases had accumulated and Sambalpur cases had to wait their turn, after cases of Manbhum and Singhbhum until the next March. On the other hand, there was an appreciable improvement in Singhbhum from 93 days to 59·9 days, in Hazaribagh from 63·7 days to 39 days and in Patna from 62·4 days to 40·1 days.

114. The number of witnesses in attendance before the Courts of Sessions was 8,915. Of these 6,422 were examined and 2,493 discharged without examination. In 1916, the corresponding figures were 9,823, 7,067 and 2,756, respectively. Of the total number in attendance 5,104 (57·3 per cent) were discharged on the 1st day, 2,080 (23·3 per cent) on the second day, 1,014 (11·4 per cent) on the third day and 717 (8 per cent) after the third day. The percentages for the previous year were 48·8, 26·9, 11·5 and 12·8, respectively. The figures for 1917 are no less an improvement on these than the figures for 1916 were an improvement on those of 1915. **Witnesses.**

The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending Sessions trials was Rs. 17,380 compared with Rs. 20,243 in 1916.

Appellate Jurisdiction.

I.—High Court.

115. At the end of 1916, 22 appeals were pending before the High Court (including the Circuit Court, Cuttack) from the sentences or orders of Criminal Courts; 282 appeals were preferred and 293 decided, 11 remained pending at the close of the year. **Appeals.**

277 of these appeals were against sentences passed by Courts of Session and one was against a sentence passed by a Magistrate acting under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. In addition there were 4 appeals by the Local Government against orders of acquittal.

116. Of the 293 appeals decided during the year, the orders of the Lower Court were upheld in 217 instances, reversed in 31 and modified in 45. **Results of Appeals.**

As regards the persons concerned in these appeals, the appeals of 334 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure; in admitted appeals, the sentences on 95 appellants were confirmed, on 90 reduced or altered, and on 73 annulled, while in the case of two the sentences were enhanced. The percentage of appellants who were entirely unsuccessful was 72·3 as against 87·5 in 1916.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

117. There were 108 appeals pending before the Courts of Session at the beginning of the year. During the year 1,499 appeals were preferred. Of these, 1,533 were decided and 74 were pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals preferred to Sessions Judges was 200 less than in 1916. **Sessions Courts.**

3,043 persons were concerned in the appeals decided by Sessions Judges during 1917. The appeals of 761 of these, or 25 per cent, were summarily dismissed; 1,075 appellants, or 35·3 per cent, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 507, or 16·7 per cent, obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence; 656, or 21·6 per cent, were acquitted; and in the case of 44, or 1·4 per cent appellants a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

118. In the Courts of Magistrates there were 63 appeals pending at the beginning of the year. During the year 1,664 appeals were preferred; of these 1,648 were decided and 78 were pending at the close of the year. The number preferred was 143 less than in 1916. **Magistrates' Courts.**

The number of persons whose appeals were decided by Courts of Magistrates was 3,280. The appeals of 674 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 1,293, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed. 1,967 appellants, or 60 per cent, were therefore wholly unsuccessful. Of the remainder 418 appellants, or 12·7 per cent, obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 869, or 26·5 per cent, were acquitted. In the case of 26 appellants a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. These results are more favourable to appellants than in the previous year.

Superintendence, Reference and Revision.

I.—HIGH COURT.

References under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

119. Sixteen references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of the sentence of death were made to the High Court during 1917. Out of these 15 were decided and one remained pending at the close of the year. In the references decided 18 persons were concerned. The death sentence on 7 persons was confirmed, and in the cases of 6 the sentence was commuted to transportation for life. Of the remaining 5 persons, 3 were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for terms exceeding 7 years and 2 were acquitted or discharged.

References under section 341 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

120. The case of one person, who, though not insane, could not be made to understand the proceedings, was referred for orders to the High Court, and was disposed of during the year, the accused being sentenced to two months' rigorous imprisonment.

Revision.

121. 65 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and 3 were pending at the opening of the year. Of these 62 were decided and 6 remained pending. The number reported was 14 more than in 1916. In 38 cases the orders sent up for revision were set aside, or the proceedings quashed, and in 8 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 2 and enhanced in 3 cases. In the remaining 11 cases the High Court declined to interfere.

Orders were passed under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in 502 cases, an increase of 17 on the figures of the previous year. All these cases came before the High Court on application made to it.

Applications rejected.

122. 282 applications for the issue of rules were rejected. Of the 220 rules issued 83 were finally discharged; 50 were made absolute in their entirety; in one case the sentence was re-enhanced; the orders complained of were modified in 50 cases; in 11 the proceedings were quashed and in 25 cases new trial or further inquiry was ordered. The figures for the preceding year were 363 applications rejected, 125 rules issued, 12 discharged and 39 made absolute.

Applications for transfer.

123. 52 applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for transfer of cases from one court or district to another were made in 1917 and two were pending from the preceding year. 54 were dealt with of which 12 were summarily rejected. In 42 cases rules were issued with the result that transfers were granted in 36 and refused in 6 cases. The principal figures for the preceding year were 44 applications, 29 rules issued, 19 granted, 9 refused and one struck off owing to the death of the applicant.

II.—COURTS SUBORDINATE TO THE HIGH COURT.

Sessions Courts.

124. The cases of 1,993 persons were decided on revision by Courts of Session. These include the cases both of accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the Courts of Magistrates and of accused persons against whom such applications were made by complainants. The number was 52 more than in 1916. The applications of 947 persons were rejected, and as regards 534, the orders of the

Lower Court were confirmed. Orders passed in the cases of 26 persons were reversed and in 10 instances proceedings were quashed. In the cases of 384 persons new trials or further inquiries were directed and the cases of 92 persons were referred to the High Court.

125. The cases of 2,247 accused persons, who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before the District Magistrates. The number was less by 14 than in 1916. The applications of 616 persons were rejected and in the cases of 798 the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 41 persons were modified, and those affecting 240 were reversed, and in the case of 3 the sentences were enhanced. In the cases of 12 persons proceedings were quashed, and in those of 496 persons new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 41 persons were referred to the High Court. **Magistrates' Courts.**

III.—General.

126. The cases of 16 European British subjects were decided during the year, against 17 in the preceding year. All these cases were dealt with by Magistrates. Of the accused persons, one of whom claimed to be tried by a mixed jury, 11 were convicted and 5 acquitted. The convictions were in one case for contempt of the lawful authority of public servants ; in 4 for offences against property ; in one for criminal intimidation, insult and annoyance ; and in the remaining cases, under special and local laws. The largest number of European British subjects was tried in Manbhum (8). **Trials of European-British subjects.**

The cases arising out of the recent Bakr-Id disturbances in the districts of Gaya and Shahabad were tried by Special Tribunals constituted under the Defence of India (Criminal Law Amendment) Act, 1915.

127. The receipts were Rs. 6,59,411. Of this amount Rs. 2,59,757 were under fines ; Rs. 76,192 under process-fees ; Rs. 96,415 under copying and comparing fees ; Rs. 1,65,067 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above ; and Rs. 61,980 were miscellaneous receipts. **Receipts and Charges.**

Debiting, as usual, to the administration of criminal justice a portion of the salaries of judicial officers proportionate to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to criminal work, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 12,68,768. Of this amount Rs. 7,83,005 were for the salaries of judicial officers; Rs. 78,157 for fixed and temporary copying establishments; Rs. 38,507 for process-servers; Rs. 2,04,679 for other establishments and Rs. 1,64,420 for contingencies and refunds. The receipts and charges exceeded and fell below those of 1916 by Rs. 19,242 and Rs. 82,418, respectively.

Criminal Justice in Scheduled Districts.

128. The number of cases brought to trial in the scheduled districts of the Santal Parganas and Angul (including the Khondmals) was 6,104 against 5,602 in the previous year, and the disposals amounted to 5,918 as against 5,475 in the year 1916. Out of the 9,352 persons under trial including those awaiting trial from the previous year, 5,216 were acquitted or discharged and 3,715 convicted. Of the cases brought to trial 1,019 were for criminal force and assault, 457 for theft, 619 for criminal trespass and 2,072 for offences under special and local laws. The punishment of whipping was inflicted in 20 cases against 76 in the previous year. The total number of appellants and applicants for revision was 449, of whom 173 were wholly or partly successful. **Santal Parganas and Angul.**

Jails.

129. The total accommodation available in the jails in the province was sufficient for 11,109 prisoners. A camp jail had to be opened at Arrah towards the close of the year under review for the confinement of undertrial prisoners arrested in connection with the Bakr-Id riots in Shahabad. **General condition of prisoners.**

Although the camp was overcrowded for a period during its short existence, due care was taken to make satisfactory messing and sanitary arrangements. Accommodation was also provided in the Hazaribagh central jail for some long-term prisoners from the Punjab and for a number of Bengali detenus incarcerated under the provisions of Regulation III of 1819.

There was little improvement in the statistics of sickness and mortality. The ratio of admissions to hospital and of the daily average number of sick prisoners *per mille* of strength was 929·9 and 43·1 respectively against 858·5 and 39·5 in the preceding year. The total number of deaths decreased from 251 to 237, but the ratio of mortality was slightly higher than in 1916, being 32·9 against 32·8 *per mille*. The growing prevalence of tuberculosis which accounted for 181 deaths against 152 in 1916, had already engaged the attention of the Local Government. The Inspector-General was asked to prepare schemes for the construction of separate tubercular wards in the larger jails of the province and to submit proposals for the utilization of a part of the Ranchi district jail for the segregation and treatment of consumptive prisoners. A systematic inquiry into the prevalence of hookworm disease was in progress in the Bhagalpur central jail.

Juvenile Jail.

130. The Monghyr juvenile jail was reported to have worked satisfactorily. The daily average population of this jail was 173·50 or 40·81 less than in the previous year. Proposals to remove the jail to more commodious buildings were under consideration.

Jail Press.

131. The complete reorganization of the Gaya Jail Press and Forms Department is under the consideration of the Local Government. The work of examining and revising the printed forms in use in all the departments of Government in accordance with the recommendations of the officer who was placed on special duty for the purpose is now in progress.

Establishment.

132. The large number of escapes during the year was largely due to the inefficiency and slackness of the warders and there can be no security against escapes until the conditions of service of these paid officers are radically altered. The proposals of the Local Government for improving the conditions of service of the warder staff have been partially accepted by the Government of India and have enabled some improvements to be effected.

Civil Justice.

Jurisdiction.

133. Sir Edward Chamier, who had been Chief Justice since the opening of the Patna High Court in March 1916, retired on the 31st October 1917, to take up the post of Legal Adviser at the India Office, and was succeeded by Sir Dawson Miller. There was a change also in the Puisne Judges. Mr. Justice Sharf-ud-din vacated his seat on the 10th September 1917, to become a member of the Executive Council of Bihar and Orissa, his place being taken by Sir Ali Imam.

Judicial staff.

134. The permanent civil judicial staff subordinate to the High Court consisted of 12 District and Sessions Judges, 19 Subordinate Judges and 68 Munsifs, but in addition to these, the following temporary appointments were made, or continued during the year :—

(*a*) The Additional District and Sessions Judge, who was appointed in Gaya in August 1916, continued to hold office until the 15th February 1917, and in Manbhum-Sambalpur an Additional District and Sessions Judge was employed from the 14th July till the 3rd September 1917, to try a gang case.

(*b*) The five posts of Subordinate Judge added to the cadre, as reported last year, continued throughout the year on a temporary basis, but will be made permanent from the 1st April 1918. They were employed at Muzaffarpur, Hazaribagh (and Palamau), Monghyr, Gaya and Manbhum. The Subordinate Judge of Hazaribagh was deputed to Saran for three months from the 31st October. In addition to these Subordinate Judges, a further Additional Subordinate Judge was sanctioned for Monghyr, where he worked for eight months.

(*c*) The temporary Additional Munsif sanctioned for Gaya in 1916, continued to work there up till the 15th June 1917, when the Court was abolished ; and on the 6th April 1917, the permanent additional Court in Cuttack was transferred to the district of Muzaffarpur where assistance was needed.

Original jurisdiction.

135. The number of additional Courts created is very moderate when the statistics of cases instituted and disposed of are examined. The number of original suits instituted in the province was 173,235, an increase of 3,895 over that of the previous year. The increase was most marked in Muzaffarpur (1,919), Shahabad (1,461) and Patna (631). **Original Suits instituted.**

The increase in Muzaffarpur, which occurred mainly in money and rent suits, was attributed by the District Judge, partly to the operation of the Revisional Survey and partly to agrarian disputes in Champaran. In Shahabad the increase was mostly in rent suits and here also survey operations were considered to have been responsible. The record-of-rights there had been finally published and the District Judge was of opinion that this increased the number of rent suits, but remarked that it had made the trial of cases easier and had reduced the number of contested suits. The increase in Patna, mainly in rent suits, appears to be merely a natural fluctuation. Of the 173,235 suits instituted, 52,818 were for money or moveables, 99,540 were rent suits and 20,877 were title and other suits, showing a decrease of ·23 and an increase of 2·8 and 6·5 per cent respectively in comparison with the corresponding figures of the previous year. The value of the suits instituted amounted to Rs. 5,03,15,015.

136. The following table shows in order the number of institutions in each district :— **Local distribution.**

Muzaffarpur	23,033
Purnea	20,833
Cuttack	19,084
Shahabad	17,763
Saran	17,300
Darbhanga	16,591
Bhagalpur	13,729
Monghyr	13,330
Patna	11,835
Manbhum-Sambalpur	7,818
Gaya	6,928
Chota Nagpur	4,991

The largest number of money and title suits was instituted in Cuttack and of rent suits in Muzaffarpur, the numbers being 15,666 and 3,418 and 16,614, respectively. As in the last year, the District Judge of Cuttack explained that the large number of money suits was due to petty money-lending, which is said to be much more prevalent in Orissa than in the rest of the province.

Nature of suits instituted.

137. The following table shows that the majority of suits instituted were as usual, under Rs. 50 in value :—

—	Suits for money and moveables.	Suits under the rent law.	Title and other suits.
1	2	3	4
Rs.			
Not exceeding 10 ...	2,731	28,316	1,008
Not exceeding 50 ...	21,240	45,580	4,188
Not exceeding 100 ...	11,908	13,295	3,260
Not exceeding 500 ...	14,544	11,026	7,748
Exceeding Rs. 500 or value not stated ...	2,395	1,323	4,673
Total ...	52,818	99,540	20,877

Title suits represented in value 70·6 per cent of the total litigation of the province. Out of the total number classed as title suits 55·8 per cent were for immoveable property, 28·8 per cent were mortgage suits and 7·05 per cent were for specific relief.

Number of suits for disposal, and disposed of.

138. The number of suits instituted (173,235) added to the number pending from the last year (87,394) and to the number revived or received on remand or review during the year (4,128) gives a total of 264,757 suits for disposal. This was an increase of 3,870 on the figures of the previous year. The number of suits disposed of was 174,725, showing an increase of 1,233 over the figures for 1916. The following table shows the disposals of contested and uncontested suits by Subordinate Judges and Munsifs :—

—	Contested.			Uncontested.			Total of columns 4 and 7.	Average disposals.			Percentage of contested disposals to total decided.	
	Under ordinary procedure.	Under Small Cause Court powers.	Total.	Under ordinary procedure.	Under Small Cause Court powers.	Total.		Contested.	Uncontested.	Total.	Under ordinary procedure.	Under Small Cause Court powers.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
By Subordinate Judges. 1916	1,976	1,047	3,023	2,139	4,204	6,613	9,666	121	263	387	20·4	10·8
By Subordinate Judges. 1917	2,032	1,049	3,081	2,172	4,640	6,812	9,893	118	262	380	20·5	10·6
By Munsifs. 1916	21,949	2,920	24,869	114,762	24,064	138,826	163,695	360	2,012	2,372	13·4	1·7
By Munsifs. 1917	23,218	2,540	25,758	116,295	22,646	138,941	164,699	376	2,028	2,404	14·09	1·5

Variations in disposals were most marked in four districts. In Muzaffarpur and Monghyr there was an increase of 2,169 and 1,329 respectively, due to additional staff and in Darbhanga and Bhagalpur there was a decrease of 2,055 and 868. The decrease in Darbhanga was attributed to the fact that a greater number of suits has been contested than in 1916 and the decrease in Bhagalpur was probably due to the fact that, unlike the previous year no Additional Subordinate Judge was posted there during 1917.

Of the total number of suits decided, 164,699 were disposed of by Munsifs, of which about one-sixth were dealt with under Small Cause Court procedure, 9,893 by Subordinate Judges, 50 by the Small Cause Court Judge of Dinapur and 83 by District and Additional District Judges.

139. The following table shows the proportion of contested and uncontested suits to the total number of suits disposed of. It also shows the number of cases in which the plaintiffs were successful in whole or in part and of cases in which the plaintiffs were unsuccessful. There was little variation compared with the previous year. **Results of suits.**

	Contested.			Uncontested.								Plaintiffs wholly or partly successful.	Plaintiffs unsuccessful.	Retrial.		
				Ex-parte.												
	For Plaintiff.	For Defendant.	Total.	Dismissed.	Decreed.	Compromised.	Decreed on confession.	Dismissed for default, etc.	Withdrawn with leave.	Rejected.	Total.			Applications granted.	Applications rejected.	Percentage of successful applications.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	23,080	5,353	28,433	1,122	79,870	29,670	1,888	30,100	2,622	552	145,833	105,197	39,558	...	5,790	37·6
Percentage with reference to total number of cases disposed of (174,725) in 1917.	13·2	3·06	16·2	·6	45·7	16·9	1·08	17·2	1·5	·3	83·4	60·2	22·8	...	...	...
	22,655	5,273	27,928	1,031	80·691	32,006	2,336	26,108	2,880	512	145,564	105,682	35,804	3,252	4,768	40·5
Percentage with reference to total number of cases disposed of (173,492) in 1916.	13·05	3·03	16·09	·59	46·5	18·4	1·3	15·04	1·6	·2	83·91	60·9	20·6	...	...	...

Of 28,433 suits decided after contest 23,080 or 81·2 per cent resulted in favour of plaintiffs and 5,353 or 18·8 per cent in favour of defendants.

140. The following table gives the average duration of contested and uncontested suits disposed of by the various grades of Courts. It shows a slight increase in the case of Munsifs and a distinct decrease in the case of Subordinate Judges. **Average duration of Suits.**

		District Judges.		Subordinate Judges.		Munsifs.		Small Cause Court Judge.	
		1917.	1916.	1917.	1916.	1917.	1916.	1917.	1916.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Days.		Days.		Days.		Days.	
Under ordinary procedure.	Contested ...	262	256	444	486	228	225	...	...
	Uncontested ...	239	277	283	302	128	129	...	...
Under Small Cause Court procedure.	Contested ...	...	...	86	87	81	77	6	48
	Uncontested ...	...	...	57	74	51	47	3	91

Pending Suits.

141. The number of suits pending at the close of the year rose from 87,394 in 1916 to 90,033, but the number of one year old suits was reduced from 2,040 to 1,477. 508 of these were pending in the Courts of Munsifs and 969 in the Courts of District and Subordinate Judges. The figures are heaviest in the four districts of Shahabad (296), Saran (259), Muzaffarpur (163) and Gaya (140).

Execution Proceedings.

142. There were 29,416 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year and 107,233 applications were made during the year. Full satisfaction was obtained in 51,680 and partial satisfaction in 10,364 cases. In 43,461 cases the proceedings were returned as wholly infructuous and 29,310 remained pending at the close of the year. The proportion of infructuous proceedings was, as in the previous year, highest in Cuttack (73·4). The next highest percentages were in Manbhum-Sambalpur (61·6) and Chota Nagpur (57·6). Both District Judges have attributed this to the fact that *raiyati* rights are not saleable in these districts in execution of money decrees, in consequence of which decree-holders file applications for execution in many cases merely in order to keep the decree alive. The total amount realized in Courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 95,27,219. The coercive measures employed were arrest of judgment-debtors in 671 cases, sale of moveable and immoveable property in 1,139 and 18,014 cases, respectively, and attachment of property, followed by its release, in 25,644 cases. Possession of immoveable property was given in 2,288 cases of which the largest number was in the district of Manbhum-Sambalpur (429).

Miscellaneous cases.

143. 25,936 cases of a judicial nature other than suits and execution proceedings were instituted, 26,914 were disposed of and 5,712 were left pending. Of the cases disposed of 2,689 were withdrawn, compromised or decreed on confession, 6,401 were decided *ex parte* and 8,439 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 48·9 per cent were granted. Of the pending cases 59 were more than a year old. The number of year old cases were largest in Muzaffarpur (23), Purnea (18) and Saran (10).

The number of miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted and disposed of was 3,623 and 4,007 respectively. The number of applications for the deposit of rent was highest in Muzaffarpur (1,200), Shahabad (200) and Gaya (187). The high figures in Muzaffarpur were probably due to somewhat strained agrarian relations consequent on the Revisional Settlement of Champaran.

Appellate Jurisdiction.

I.—Appeals in the High Court.

Appeals from Subordinate Courts.

144. The following table gives the number of appeals from Subordinate Courts instituted and decided in the High Court during 1917. It shows a substantial decrease in the number of appeals pending at the end of the year.

	Pending at the close of 1916.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1917.
1	2	3	4	5
First Appeals—				
From decrees ...	615	165	455	435
From orders ...	180	219	230	169
Second Appeals—				
From decrees ...	1,434	1,518	1,885	1,067
From orders ...	71	101	108	64
Total ...	2,300	2,103	2,668	1,735

Of the 445 appeals from original decrees decided during the year, 95 were uncontested, being dismissed for default, or otherwise not prosecuted. Of those decided after contest, in 245 cases the decrees of the Lower Court were confirmed, in 37 cases reversed, in 57 modified and in 11 remanded.

Of 1,885 appeals from appellate decrees of District Judges and Subordinate Judges, 426 were summarily rejected, 64 were compromised, 4 were withdrawn and 44 were dismissed for default, while of the remainder 821 decrees were confirmed, 155 reversed, 168 modified and 203 remanded.

Of the 338 appeals from orders decided, 30 were summarily rejected, 50 were uncontested, being dismissed for default or otherwise not prosecuted, and 258 were decided after trial. Of the latter 188 orders were confirmed, 51 reversed, 6 varied and 13 remanded.

II.—APPELLATE COURTS SUBORDINATE TO THE HIGH COURT.

Appeals instituted.

145. 8,563 appeals, 1,042 more than in 1916, were instituted. Appeals were lodged in 32·9 per cent of the cases in which appeals were possible. The highest percentages were in Manbhum-Sambalpur (45) and Patna (42·07) and the lowest were in Purnea (22·3) and Bhagalpur (20·3). 8,749 appeals, 901 more than in 1916, were disposed of, of which 5,280 were decided by District and Additional District Judges and 3,469 by Subordinate Judges. The chief fluctuations occurred in Manbhum-Sambalpur, Monghyr and Cuttack. In Manbhum-Sambalpur, there was an increase of 576 disposed of due to more use having been made of the Special Subordinate Judge and to the District Judge having spent more time in civil work, while at Monghyr there was an increase of 389, due to the appointment of the temporary Additional Subordinate Judge. In Cuttack there was a decrease of 301. 5,366 appeals were pending at the end of the year, or 171 more than at the end of 1916, but there was a satisfactory decrease, from 438 to 298, in the number pending for more than a year.

Result of Appeals.

146. In 4,780 cases, or 54·6 per cent of the whole, the judgment of the Lower Court was affirmed, in 1,242 cases or 14·2 per cent it was modified and in 1,418 or 16·2 per cent it was reversed. These percentages are practically the same as in the preceding year. 376 appeals, or 4·3 per cent, were remanded, and 933, or 10·7 per cent, were either not prosecuted or were dismissed for default.

General.

Receipts and charges.

147. The receipts of the Civil Courts in Bihar and Orissa for the year amounted to Rs. 38,84,364, an increase of Rs. 1,88,795 on those of the previous year, and the charges to Rs. 13,91,522, a decrease of Rs. 18,496 compared with those of 1916. Including the amount of Rs. 75,400 realized on account of duty on probates, etc., there was a profit to the Government from civil litigation of Rs. 25,68,242. The details of the receipts and charges are as follows:—

Receipts.			Rs.	Charges.			Rs.
In stamps	Process fees	...	7,04,201	Salaries of Judicial officers		...	5,65,953
	Other fees	...	29,00,335	Establishment	Process-servers.		1,51,163
In cash or special stamps.	Fines	...	869		Others	...	4,46,490
	Copying and comparing fees.		2,17,124	Copyists' fees		...	1,54,527
	Other receipts	...	61,835	Contingencies and refund		...	73,389
	Total	...	38,84,364	Total		...	13,91,522

Receipts show an increase on the previous year's figures of Rs. 1,88,795; the increase chiefly occurred under "Other Fees". The decrease in expenditure is principally under the heads "Salaries of Judicial officers" and "Contingencies and Refund".

The Judge in charge of the English Department inspected the courts at Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Purulia and Dhanbad during the year. District Judges inspected the Courts of 4 Subordinate Judges and 34 Munsifs. These figures are not satisfactory but orders have issued requiring inspection once at least in 18 months of all civil courts under them by District Judges.

Civil Justice in Scheduled Districts.

148. The total number of suits instituted during the year in the Civil Courts in the scheduled districts of the Santal Parganas and Angul (including the Khondmals) was 14,179 against 14,766 in the previous year. Of these 7,097 were suits for money and moveable property, 5,866 rent suits and 1,214 title and other suits. Rent and money suits decreased by 8·4 per cent and 2·7 per cent respectively, while title suits increased by 8·1 per cent. The number of cases disposed of amounted to 14,040 leaving 2,379 pending at the close of the year. There were 12,867 applications for execution of decrees of which 2,700 remained pending at the end of the year; 634 appeals from decrees were filed and 554 were disposed of. Out of 162 miscellaneous appeals 144 were disposed of.

Registration.

[Statistical Returns showing the operations under the Indian Registration Act in Bihar and Orissa during 1917.]

[Statistics of British India, Part II—Commercial, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Staff and Administration.

149. The leave reserve in the Registration Department was increased from eight to twelve per cent of the sanctioned posts on the distinct understanding that the prescribed restrictions as to the employment of outsiders to fill up leave vacancies should be strictly observed. A revised table of fees under the Indian Registration Act XVI of 1918 was approved and came into force on the 1st April 1918. The recommendation of the Royal Commission on the public services in India that other provinces might find in the conditions and terms of the registration service in Madras a model to imitate was considered by the Local Government, but it was decided that the existing system was better suited to conditions obtaining in Bihar and Orissa.

Offices.

150. Two experimental offices, one at Chandbali in the district of Balasore and another at Ramnagar in the district of Champaran, were opened as an experimental measure. A temporary office was opened for three months from 15th December 1917 at Jaintpur (known as the temporary Joint Sub-Registry office of Paru at Jaintpur) in the district of Muzaffarpur at the request of the Receiver of the Jaintpur Estate for the registration of certain *pattas*. The joint office of Khurda in the district of Puri, which was opened as an experimental measure from 2nd August 1915, was made permanent from 2nd April 1917 and the office was removed to Tangi, a central place, and named after the place, having independent jurisdiction over thanas Banpur including Tangi and Jankia Police-stations, the jurisdiction of the Sub-Registry office at Khurda being restricted to the remaining police-stations in the Khurda Subdivision. The experimental Sub-Registry office at Jale (Kamtaul) in the district of Darbhanga was also made permanent with its name as Kamtaul. The office continued to be a joint office to the Darbhanga Sadr Registration office. The Sub-Registry office at Naubatpur in Patna was removed to Bikram, a convenient centre, and the office named after that place.

Statistics.

151. The total number of registrations of documents affecting immoveable property, moveable property and wills decreased from 494,023 in 1916 to 493,216 in 1917, i.e., by 0·1 per cent, but the total income increased from

Rs. 6,65,246 in 1916 to Rs. 6,81,556 in 1917, i.e., by 2·4 per cent and the total expenditure decreased from Rs. 3,76,620 in 1916 to Rs. 3,53,690, i. e., by 6·0 per cent.

Registration in various divisions. Patna Division.

152. In the Patna Division registrations decreased in the district of Patna and increased in the districts of Gaya and Shahabad. The decrease in Patna was by 5·6 per cent. It was attributed to local prosperity. The increase by 1·8 and 0·9 per cent in Gaya and Shahabad respectively were small and need no comment.

Tirhut Division.

153. Registrations in the Tirhut Division increased in all the districts except Champaran where the number of deeds fell off by 9·5 per cent. The increase in Saran was by 0·1 per cent only; while it amounted to 10·7 and 8·3 per cent in Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga respectively. The increase in Muzaffarpur was chiefly under the head of perpetual leases as a consequence of the settlement of lands in perpetuity between zamindars with their raiyats. Registration of *pattas* at Paru in favour of Motipur Indigo Concern contributed to the increase: The increase in Darbhanga was attributed to the greater popularity of the joint office at Kamtaul lately established and to the settlement of lands by the Darbhanga and Hathwa Estates and other zamindars.

Bhagalpur Division.

154. In the Bhagalpur Division registrations increased in the district of Bhagalpur but fell off in the districts of Monghyr, Purnea and the Santal Parganas. The increase in Bhagalpur amounted to 14·6 per cent compared with the figure of the previous year. Registration of agreements and renewed leases and also settlement of lands contributed to the increase. The decreases in Monghyr, Purnea and the Santal Parganas were by 3·5, 5·5 and 9·1 per cent respectively. In Monghyr and Purnea, good harvests and the consequent fall in the price of food-grains were responsible for the decreases. No special reason is attributed to the decrease in the Santal Parganas.

Orissa Division.

155. Registrations decreased in all the disrticts of the Orissa Division except Sambalpur and Puri. The decreases in Cuttack and Balasore were by 5·1 and 20·4 per cent respectively. In both the districts good paddy crops and low price of food-grains and the depression in exports were cited as the causes of the decrease. The increase in registrations in Sambalpur was by 3·5 per cent. The number of registrations is still not commensurate with the area of the district. The percentage of increase in Puri over the figure of the previous year amounted to 0·2 per cent, while the number of registrations in Angul was 18 in the year under report against 36 in the previous year.

Chota Nagpur Division.

156. Registrations fell off by 5·4, 0·9 and 0·1 per cent in Hazaribagh, Ranchi and Palamau, respectively, in the Chota Nagpur Division but increased by 2·9 per cent in Manbhum and by 17·4 per cent in Singhbhum. The continued increase in Manbhum was due to the gradual appreciation by the public that the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, VI of 1908, does not in fact prohibit mortgage of raiyati holdings. The large increase in Singhbhum was ascribed to the good climate of Ghatsila, which is attracting people to settle there. Another cause of the increase in the district of Singhbhum is believed to be the surrender of lands by tenants who have relinquished agriculture for industrial work.

Working of the Indian Companies Act VII of 1913. Number of Companies.

157. The total number of companies limited by shares working at the close of the year under report was 33, with an aggregate authorized capital of Rs. 46,90,000 and an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 15,25,867, against 37 Companies with an aggregate authorized capital of Rs. 49,60,000 and an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 15,58,857 with which the year started. The number of companies limited by guarantee at the close of the year under review was eight, i.e., the same as at the close of the year 1916-17. Two new companies limited by shares were registered and incorporated: of these the Bengal Behar Trading Corporation, Limited, has its registered office in the town of Muzaffarpur. It is a trading company started

with the object of conducting miscellaneous business with an authorized capital of Rs. 2,00,000 divided into 4,000 shares of Rs. 50 each. The company obtained its certificate entitling it to commence business under section 103 (2) of the Act during the year and 247 shares have already been subscribed and Rs. 8,251 paid on them. The second styled the Bari-Ghat Milling Company, Limited, with its registered office at Maugalgarh in Darbhanga district, was registered and incorporated as a Private Company. The object of this company is to acquire the business and good-will of the mill situated in the village of Maranchi Ujagur in the district of Darbhanga known as the Bari-Ghat Mill and to carry on an indigo, sugar and rice business combined with brewery and malting. The authorized capital of this Company is Rs. 1,50,000 divided into 1,500 shares of Rs. 100 each, of which shares to the value of Rs. 32,000 were already allotted by the company as fully paid up otherwise than in cash during the year.

Only one new company, limited by guarantee, the New Patna Club was registered. The registered office of the Club is in the New Capital at Patna and its Articles of Association declare it to consist of 100 members. No new Company, incorporated outside British India, filed documents in the office of the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, Bihar and Orissa, under section 277 (1) of the Act during the year under report, the number of such Companies having places of business in the province of Bihar and Orissa are now twenty-three.

Liquidation proceedings.

158. Six companies ceased to exist during the year under report. Three companies, limited by shares, viz., (1) The Peoples' Mutual Insurance Society, Limited, at Cuttack, (2) The Bihar and Orissa Newspapers, Limited, at Bankipore, and (3) The Hazaribagh Motor Service Company, Limited, at Hazaribagh, were struck off the register in pursuance of section 247 of the Indian Companies Act, VII of 1913, and dissolved. The first named company ceased operations. The second, i. e., The Bihar and Orissa Newspapers, Limited, of Bankipore, finding it impracticable to repay a large amount of money advanced by a particular creditor from its profits or from any other source passed an extraordinary resolution to the effect that the company ceased to carry on business at its own instance and transferred its liabilities and assets to that particular creditor ; this was apparently a case of voluntary liquidation under section 203 (3) of the Act, and the company was advised to comply with the requirements of sections 206 and 207 of the Act. They however took no action and section 247 of the Act was accordingly applied. The Hazaribagh Motor Service Company, Limited, of Hazaribagh which was formed mainly with the object of conducting a motor service had been registered on the 1st April 1916. It was never able to start business as cars were not available owing to the war. Two other companies, viz., (1) Gaya Loan Office, Limited, at Gaya, and (2) The Indian Goods Supply Company, Limited, at Ranchi, were voluntarily wound-up as neither company could continue their business against their liabilities. In the case of the former an order was passed by the High Court of Judicature at Patna on the petition of the liquidators that the voluntary winding up of the company may continue, under the supervision of the Court and that all subsequent proceedings be held in the Court of the District Judge of Gaya. Another company, viz., Shamsi and Company, Limited, at Moradpur, Bankipore, was compulsorily wound up under the orders of the High Court of Judicature at Patna passed on the 20th April 1917 on an application by the Bank of Bihar, Limited, for winding up the company and two official liquidators were appointed ; subsequent proceedings in the matter of the winding up were ordered to be had in the Court of the District Judge of Patna. The aggregate authorized and paid-up capitals of these six companies had been Rs. 6,20,000 and Rs. 1,38,664 respectively.

Capital.

159. During the year under report, nine companies increased their paid-up capitals by amounts aggregating Rs. 65,423, but there was no reduction of capital by any company.

Members.

160. The Bankipore Club, Limited, a company registered during the year 1916-17 with 100 members, increased, by a special resolution confirmed on the 18th March 1917, the number of members of the Club from 100 to 200 ; and the notice of increase was filed and registered on the 28th April 1917.

161. The total amount of fees realized under the Act was Rs. 961-13-0 compared with Rs. 1,351-2-0 in the year 1916-17. In addition to this sum a stamp duty of Rs. 320 was realized from one company on the prescribed particulars of a contract under section 104 (2) of the Act. The decrease in receipts is due to the decrease in the number of companies and societies registered during the year, also to the fact that filing fees for a number of documents registered during the year were received and credited to Treasury before the close of the year 1916-17 and accounted for in the report for that year. The reduction of fees to be paid for the filing of certain classes of documents under the Act sanctioned in the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, Notification No. 6161-26, dated the 2nd July 1916, was also one of the causes for the decrease in the receipts. **Fees.**

162. District Officers were requested to report after due enquiry whether the provisions of section 136 of the Act had been complied with by the limited Banking, Insurance and other companies working in their districts. Their reports show that the requirements of that section were duly complied with, except by the branch offices of the Bank of Behar, Limited, at Sasaram in the district of Shahabad and at Gaya. In the Shahabad case the Magistrate took action and the Local Manager and Secretary of the Bank was required to show cause why he should not be fined under section 136 (4) of the Act and in respect of the default made by the Gaya Branch, similar action was taken by the Registrar. **Penalties.**

There was no prosecution under the Act. Documents especially the annual balance sheets, the annual lists of share-holders and summaries of capital, the returns of allotments, etc., are now filed regularly and in due time; and timely reminders issue inviting the attention of companies to sections 32 and 134 of the Act. In the few cases of delay which came to notice steps were taken to compel the companies in default to comply with the requirements of the law.

A report under section 137 (5) was received by the Local Government with reference to the Chapra Home Stores, Limited. An examination by the Auditor of the Company on the balance-sheet for the year ended 31st May 1917, showed that the affairs of the company were not in a satisfactory condition. Shortly after its registration complaints were received against the Bengal Behar Trading Corporation, Limited, of Muzaffarpur and enquiries were instituted by the Magistrate of the District. Balance-sheets of all companies are audited by auditors duly authorized by Government under section 144 (1) of the Act to act as such.

163. One permanent restricted, and three provisional restricted certificates (one for a period of two years and two for a period of one year each) were granted by the Local Government in pursuance of the rules under section 144 (2) of the Act. Including those of the previous years 10 persons now hold restricted certificates (two permanent and eight provisional) granted by the Local Government, and are authorized to act as Auditors of Companies within this province only. Intimation was also received from other local Governments of the issue of unrestricted certificates. There are now 24 holders of such certificates who are entitled to act as Auditors of Companies throughout British India. **Certificates.**

164. The following important rules and orders were framed during the year :— **Rules and Orders.**

(1) Prescription of certain rules and forms under section 246 of the Act. Under the Addenda and Corrigenda to the Patna High Court Rules, September 1916, Amendment II, the rules and forms prescribed under order of the Calcutta High Court, Original Jurisdiction, dated 17th May 1916, and published at pages 896 to 898, Part II of the *Gazette of India* of the 20th idem, have been adopted for Bihar and Orissa.

(2) Passing on the 22nd March 1918 of the Indian Companies Restriction Act, 1918 (XII of 1918), which shall remain in force during the continuance of the present war and for a period of six months thereafter. Section 3(1) of the Act prohibits the registration of, or increase of share capital by, companies except under licenses in this behalf issued by the Governor General in Council.

Working of Act XXI of 1860.

165. During the year, one new society styled "Sarbhit Prabandha" was registered in this province under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860). The Society is a philanthropic institution.

There are at present 13 societies registered under the Act in this province.

Working of Acts V and VI of 1912.

166. As in the preceding years there were no registered Life Assurance Companies or Provident Insurance Societies.

Brahmo Marriage Act, III of 1872.

167. Under the Brahmo Marriage Act, III of 1872, nine marriages were registered during the year as compared with four in 1916-17. No widow was remarried during the year.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act and Qazis' Act.

168. Including the district of Palamau to which Act I (B. C.) of 1876 was extended during the year, the Act was in force in seven districts in the province. Four new offices were opened in the district of Palamau during the year which closed with a total of 36 offices against 32 in the previous year. In fifteen offices no registration took place. The number of ceremonies registered decreased from 418 to 377. The total receipts of the Qazi Registers amounted to Rs. 627-4-0 as against Rs. 681-8-0 in the previous year.

Municipalities.

[Resolution on the working of Municipalities in Bihar and Orissa, during the year 1917-18.]

Number of Municipalities.

169. The only new municipality was Chakradharpur in the district of Singhbhum. The statistics for the Patna Administration Committee which was created on the 1st April 1916, for the municipal administration of Patna, the Capital of the province, were for the first time incorporated in the annual returns.

Constitution of Municipalities.

170. The total number of commissioners on the Municipal Boards rose from 780 to 786 owing to the inclusion of the figures of the Patna Administration Committee. Of these 133 sat *ex-officio*, 184 were nominated and 469 were elected. The proportions of officials to non-officials and of Europeans to Indians were 1:5 and 1:9 respectively.

Elections.

171. General elections were held in the municipalities of Khagaul, Gaya, Tikari, Daudnagar, Sitamarhi, Roserah, Bhagalpur, Dumka, Cuttack and Kendrapara, and in the majority of cases the vacant seats were contested.

The reports of the local officers on the working of the revised election rules which were introduced in July 1917, are now under consideration.

Number of meetings and attendance of Commissioners.

172. Of 872 meetings convened as against 882 in the previous year twenty-eight proved abortive for want of a quorum, and twenty-two were adjourned. The Patna Administration Committee and the Jamalpur Municipality failed to work up to an average of one meeting per month, and although fifteen meetings were convened in the Roserah Municipality, business was transacted at nine only. The latter municipality, which was in a deplorable state in the previous year, was reported to have improved, but the number of meetings which proved abortive indicates continued indifference on the part of the Commissioners to municipal affairs.

Assessment and Taxation.

173. The aggregate number of municipal rate-payers rose from 211,281 in 1916-17 to 215,286, the increase being shared by the Tirhut, Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur Divisions. A marked increase of revenue was produced by a revision of assessment in the municipalities of Patna (Rs. 58,291),

Puri (Rs. 12,694), Chapra (Rs. 8,524), Darbhanga (Rs. 7,092), Arrah (Rs. 6,195,) Madhubani (Rs. 3,979), Ranchi (Rs. 3,731) and Purulia (Rs. 2,606).

The last revision of the tax on persons in the Jhalda Municipality gave an income which was insufficient for the efficient administration of the municipality and the Municipal Commissioners have since been required under section 111A of the Municipal Act to show cause why the assessment should not be revised and amended.

174. Large dues on account of taxes remained unrealized in the municipalities of Monghyr (Rs. 43,155), Patna City (Rs. 34,137), Ranchi (Rs. 18,426), Puri (Rs. 12,376), Balasore (Rs. 6,080) and Jamalpur (Rs. 5,017), the first and second of which have been mentioned for the same default in the past two years. **Collections.**

The report of the Examiner of Local Accounts contained a long list of irregularities in connection with the collection and remission of municipal taxes. The municipalities of Ranchi, Monghyr and Jhalda were the worst offenders. In Monghyr remissions were granted representing 19 per cent of the current demand, and it has since been discovered that in 67 per cent of the cases the remissions were granted improperly; steps to realize such improperly remitted taxes are being taken. In the Jhalda Municipality the tax-daroga went to the length of increasing the amount of taxes remitted by the Municipal Commissioners. The unsatisfactory state of the collections in this municipality caused such a dislocation of its finances that the treasury balance was exhausted on several occasions and cheques issued were held up for want of funds. The detailed audit reports showed that there is great room for improvements in the office work of all municipalities.

175. The total receipts, including opening and closing balances, amounted to Rs. 47,57,902 and the disbursements to Rs. 37,38,745, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 10,19,157. The main items of income and expenditure during the past two years are compared below :— **Income and Expenditure.**

	Income.		Increase + or Decrease −.
	1916-17.	1917-18.	
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	10,63,763	11,24,880	+61,117
Municipal rates and taxes	16,50,543	17,08,766	+58,223
Realization under Special Acts	42,361	44,198	+1,837
Revenue derived from Municipal property and powers apart from taxation.	2,48,719	2,62,078	+13,359
Grants and Contributions	9,08,604	8,93,842	−14,762
Miscellaneous	77,823	54,465	−23,363
Extraordinary and Debt	5,64,724	6,69,673	+1,04,949
Total ...	45,56,542	47,57,902	+2,01,360

	Expenditure.		Increase + or Decrease −.
	1916-17.	1917-18.	
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
General Administration and collection charges	1,82,432	1,86,808	+4,376
Public Safety	1,45,227	1,43,344	—1,883
Public health and convenience	23,24,886	25,87,863	+2,62,977
Public Instruction	1,79,993	1,56,457	—23,536
Contributions	14,816	11,643	—3,173
Miscellaneous	1,45,307	1,05,542	—39,765
Extraordinary and Debt	5,18,769	5,47,088	+28,319
Closing balance	10,45,112	10,19,157	—25,955
Total ...	45,56,542	47,57,902	+2,01,360

Closing Balances.

176. (Rs. 10,19,157).—As noticed in the reviews for the two previous years the bulk of the closing balances consists of unspent government grant and other contributions for specific works. The balances available for general expenditure in the municipalities of Bettiah, Jajpur, Darbhanga, Raghunathpur, Jamalpur, Bihar, Revelganj, Dumraon and Jagdispur were inadequate, being insufficient to cover the expenditure of a single month.

INCOME.

Tax on houses and lands.

177. (Rs. 7,27,469).—The aggregate increase during the year was Rs. 40,105.

Tolls on roads and ferries.

178. (Rs. 69,017).—Only twelve municipalities derive income under this head. In Sambalpur it is derived from tolls on roads and in the remaining eleven municipalities from ferries. The receipts fell in eight, remained stationary in one, and rose in three municipalities. The decrease of Rs. 5,840 in Muzaffarpur was reported to be due to failure to realize the full demand.

Water-rate.

179. (Rs. 1,27,776).—Water-rate was levied, as in the previous year, only in Gaya, Arrah, Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Daltonganj. The net receipts show a slight increase (Rs. 503). The levy of water-rate in Muzaffarpur and in Patna City and Patna is under the consideration of the local authorities concerned.

Conservancy, including scavenging and latrine rates.

180. (Rs. 4,09,457).—Fees for the cleansing of private privies and cesspools were realized in 43 out of 56 municipalities. Excluding the Patna Administration Committee, the receipts fell in 13 municipalities and rose in 29, resulting in a net increase of Rs. 36,712 the bulk of which was contributed by the Patna City Municipality (Rs. 16,687), Monghyr (Rs. 4,712), Darbhanga (Rs. 4,510) and Motihari (Rs. 4,182).

Contributions.

181. (Rs. 8,93,842).—(*a*) The aggregate receipts fell by Rs. 14,762. The total contributions made by Government for general purposes fell from Rs. 3,65,557 to Rs. 3,31,791 while those made for educational and medical purposes rose from Rs. 55,429 and Rs. 1,03,935 to Rs. 81,385 and Rs. 1,46,200 respectively. Large grants were made to the following municipalities :—

To the Bhagalpur Municipality Rs. 71,617 (including Rs. 54,318 towards the Tarbana Land Acquisition scheme, Rs. 10,000 for a conservancy scheme and Rs. 7,299 for the construction of a tuberculosis ward). To the Chapra

Municipality Rs. 50,000 for water works. To the Patna City Municipality Rs. 43,498 (viz., Rs. 25,000 for a slaughter-house and Rs. 18,498 towards the cost of block No. I of the surface drainage scheme). To the Patna Administration Committee Rs. 33,625 (Rs. 21,000 for general purposes, Rs. 6,500 for the construction of the Sanitary Superintendent's quarters and Rs. 6,125 for a dhobi-ghat). To the Gaya Municipality Rs. 18,948 (viz., Rs. 10,000 for a septic tank, Rs. 8,948 on account of the pay of the Health Officer and Engineer). To the Ranchi Municipality Rs. 11,754 for general purposes. To the Darbhanga Municipality Rs. 10,000 for the construction of a female out-door dispensary. To the Puri Municipality Rs. 10,000 for a conservancy scheme. To the Dumka Municipality Rs. 9,253 for the acquisition of land for the Assistant Surgeon's quarters. To the Monghyr Municipality Rs. 7,957 for repairs to the municipal barges.

(*b*) Among private donors the proprietors of the Banaili Estate deserve special mention for their contribution of Rs. 25,000 towards the acquisition of land in the Tarbana area in Bhagalpur town for a municipal park and market.

EXPENDITURE.

182. (Rs. 1,73,226).—The aggregate outlay rose by Rs. 2,767. The percentage of the charge for general establishment on total ordinary expenditure was heavy in the municipalities of Revelganj (21·6), Tikari (17·08) and Khagaul (17·05). **Office and Collection Establishment.**

183. (Rs. 1,42,324).—The aggregate expenditure fell by Rs. 1,963, the scarcity of oil and other lighting materials compelling some municipalities to reduce the extent of their lighting system. **Lighitng.**

184. (Rs. 5,47,229).—The total capital outlay and the expenditure on establishment, repairs, etc., rose from Rs. 2,80,260 and Rs. 1,41,344 to Rs. 3,76,463 and Rs. 1,70,766 respectively. **Water-supply.**

Only fourteen municipalities incurred capital outlay, while expenditure on establishment, repairs, etc., was incurred in all but eight municipalities.

Nothing was spent on water-supply by the municipalities of Khagaul, Tikari, Colgong and Deoghar and insignificant sums in Madhupur, Dumka, Dinapur Nizamat, Revelganj and Sahebganj.

Of the larger works those in Patna, Patna City and Muzaffarpur were in progress. In Muzaffarpur work was held up for want of strainer tubes. Repairs to the existing works were undertaken in Gaya, Bhagalpur and Monghyr. The detailed plans and estimates for the Puri water-works were still under preparation.

185. (Rs. 1,02,654).—Capital outlay was incurred in the municipalities of Patna, Tikari, Arrah, Jagdispur, Bhabhua, Siwan, Motihari, Hajipur, Monghyr, Jamalpur, Purnea, Kishunganj, Forbesganj, Puri and Daltonganj. **Drainage.**

The aggregate charges for establishment, repairs, etc., rose from Rs. 56,072 to Rs. 61,066. No expenditure under this head was incurred by the municipalities of Tikari, Hajipur and Puri while those of Roserah and Revelganj spent only Rs. 3 and Rs. 27 respectively for the purpose. The municipalities of Dinapur Nizamat and Darbhanga incurred no expenditure under this head.

The Sanitary Engineer was engaged in working out a full drainage scheme for Patna City which it is hoped to introduce gradually in self-contained sections. Schemes for several other municipalities were under enquiry and preparation.

186. (Rs. 8,19,668).—There was an increase of Rs. 1,60,118 in the aggregate expenditure which was shared by all the divisions. The largest increase (Rs. 1,05,902) occurred in Patna City, owing to the introduction of the conservancy scheme prepared by Dr. Tiwari, Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, whose **Conservancy including road cleaning, road watering and latrines.**

services were lent to the municipality to assist the commissioners in improving its conservancy. Government have given liberal financial assistance to the scheme which has effected a great improvement but the refusal of the commissioners to raise sufficient taxation to provide for the recurring costs threatens to render the scheme nugatory.

Hospitals and dispensaries.

187. (Rs. 5,22,941).—The net expenditure fell by Rs. 52,684. A decline in expenditure occurred in the municipalities of Purnea (Rs. 16,094), Chapra (Rs. 15,698), Ranchi (Rs. 10,77-), Roserah (Rs. 10,518), Patna City (Rs. 9,079) and Puri (Rs. 6,336), but the decrease in Purnea, Chapra, Ranchi and the Patna City was due to the construction of new buildings having been completed in the previous year. In Roserah it was due to the fact that in the preceding year the refund of Rs. 11,500 out of the grant made by the Darbhanga District Board for the new hospital building was shown as expenditure under this head. In Puri the decline was due partly to the purchase of fewer medical stores for the Lion's Gate Dispensary and the Pilgrim Hospital and partly to the utilization during 1916-17 of the unspent balance of government grant previously made to the Pilgrim Hospital.

On the other hand a marked increase in outlay occurred in Chatra (Rs. 9,709), Muzaffarpur (Rs. 6,521) and Monghyr (Rs. 5,636). In Chatra the increase was due to the contribution paid by the municipality towards the construction of the new dispensary building; in Muzaffarpur to the payment of the preceding year's bills, and in Monghyr to the extension of the female ward attached to the Sadr dispensary and to the purchase of surgical instruments.

Plague and other epidemic disease charges.

188. (Rs. 10,410).— Practically no expenditure on account of plague was incurred in the Orissa and Chota Nagpur Divisions. Elsewhere there was not much direct expenditure by the municipalities except in Darbhanga, Buxar, Dumraon, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Colgong, Jamalpur and Sahibganj. The town of Hazaribagh was visited by a very severe outbreak of cholera.

Public Works.

189. (Rs. 3,56,453).—The aggregate expenditure on establishment, building, roads and stores rose from Rs. 49,932, Rs. 26,417, Rs. 2,50,725 and Rs. 3,084 to Rs. 50,648, Rs. 30,582, Rs. 2,70,692 and Rs. 4,531 respectively. More than twenty-five per cent of the total ordinary expenditure was devoted to public works in the municipalities of Lalganj (38·2), Forbesganj (37·45), Bettiah (26·3), Madhupur (25·85) and Tikari (25·6).

Public Instruction.

190. (Rs. 1,56,457).—Considerable delay has occurred in the preparation of the schemes for the improvement of primary education which have been called for from the different municipalities. The only schemes at present sanctioned are those for Ranchi, Gaya and Purulia.

Loans.

191. The outstanding loan liabilities to Government amounted to Rs. 7,07,327 on the 31st March 1918 as compared with Rs. 7,70,950 a year previously.

Unpaid Bills.

192. (Rs. 50,888).—Twenty-eight municipalities against twenty-six in the previous year had unpaid bills at the close of the year, but in no cases except in Dumraon, Jamalpur, Cuttack and Jajpur did the amounts exceed the closing balances.

Audit of accounts and embezzlement.

193. The most serious case of embezzlement occurred in Gaya and was followed by the dismissal of an overseer and the compulsory resignation of the secretary. Successful prosecutions for embezzlements were undertaken at Giridih and Balasore and prosecutions were pending in connection with frauds at Jamalpur and Balasore. Misappropriation by the collecting staff was reported from Dinapur Nizamat, Daudnagar, Puri, Siwan and the accountant of the Siwan Municipality was detected in a serious embezzlement. Laxity of supervision over the collection department was noticed in Sambalpur, Monghyr, Ranchi and Lohardaga.

194. The year did not witness any striking advance on the part of the municipalities of the province. It was generally found that municipal commissioners while taking a lively interest in the larger schemes affecting their town showed very little enthusiasm in watching and controlling the details of work which contribute to the good or ill success of the administration. It is essential to progress that the commissioners should consider themselves guardians of the interests of the wards which they represent and should be most careful to see that the municipal staff performs its duties properly within that area. At present all executive control is usually centred in the hands of the Vice-Chairman while the other members of the Municipal Body regard themselves as a purely consultative body. The task of supervising unaided municipal operations over a large town is impossible for a single man, able to devote only a part of his time to the task ; and under such a system waste and inefficiency are inevitable. **General observations.**

The municipal commissioners of Revelganj passed a resolution asking Government to abolish the municipality but subsequently revoked it. After months of bickering they passed a resolution asking Government to reduce the area of the municipality by the exclusion of arable lands and their request is under consideration. For the greater part of the year the affairs of the Cuttack Municipality were in a highly unsatisfactory condition but were latterly reported to be improving.

Puri Lodging House Act.

(Report on the working of the Puri Lodging House Act during the year 1917-18.)

195. The Act was in force in the same towns and places as in the previous year. **Extent of application.**

196. The number of licensed lodging houses in Gaya fell from 374 to 337 and the number of lodgers for whom accommodation was provided from 26,155 to 23,005. In Deoghar also the number of lodging houses and lodgers fell from 94 and 4,559 to 78 and 3,923 respectively. The total number of lodging houses in the Orissa Division was the same as in the previous year. In Cuttack and Jajpur the number increased but in other places it decreased. The aggregate number of lodgers decreased from 17,522 to 15,342. The decrease is noticeable in the district of Puri where it is attributed chiefly to restricted railway communication, to the opening of spacious Dharamsalas and to the inauspiciousness of the year according to the Hindu calendar for pilgrimage. **Number of licensed lodging houses and lodgers.**

197. The total number of prosecutions instituted under the Act fell from 211 to 184 and the total fines realized amounted to Rs. 2,547-8-0 against Rs. 3,931-8-0 in the previous year. **Offences under the Act.**

198. The total income of the Lodging House Funds was Rs. 58,590 against Rs. 62,063 in the previous year. In Gaya the income fell from Rs. 32,158 to Rs. 26,589. In the Orissa Division there was an increase of Rs. 2,149. In Deoghar there was a fall of Rs. 53 only. **Income.**

199. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 52,699 against Rs. 77,859 in the preceding year. The decrease was remarkable in Puri where it fell from Rs. 41,420 to Rs. 22,743. This decrease was due partly to the fact that a considerable investment was made in the war loan during 1916-17. **Expenditure.**

200. The general health of the towns of Puri and Deoghar was good throughout the year but in Gaya the public health was adversely affected by an outbreak of plague. **Health and Sanitation.**

During the year under report the Health Officers of the Puri and Deoghar Municipalities were appointed Health Officers under the Lodging House Act.

District Boards.

(Resolution on the working of District Boards in Bihar and Orissa during the year 1917-18.)

Number of District and Local Boards and the Union Committees.

201. The number of District Boards remained unchanged. That of Local Boards rose from 41 to 46, owing to the establishment of Local Boards for the four sadr subdivisions of the Tirhut division and the Bettiah subdivision of the Champaran district. New Union Committees were established at Khujwa in the district of Saran, at Khagaria, Gogri and Hayeli Kharagpur in the district of Monghyr, and at Satyabadi and Bhubaneshwar in the district of Puri. The total number of these committees was 33.

District Boards. Number of meetings and attendance of members.

202. The number of meetings held by the eighteen District Boards including the District Council of Sambalpur, was 297 against 292 in the preceding year. Fourteen of these against five proved abortive for want of a quorum. All except the Palamau District Board met at least once a month. The average percentage of attendance of official members varied from 37 in Champaran to 87 in Darbhanga, and that of non-officials from 41 in Sambalpur to 75 in Cuttack. The District Boards of Gaya, Saran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga were reconstituted. Three members of the Balasore District Board were removed for absence from six consecutive meetings.

Local Boards. Number of meetings and attendance of members.

203. The number of meetings held by the Local Boards rose from 492 to 519, and the number which proved abortive for want of a quorum from 26 to 33. The Local Boards of Giridih in Hazaribagh, Jajpur in Cuttack, Balasore Sadr and Bhadrak in Balasore, Khurda in Puri, and Sambalpur Sadr and Bargarh in Sambalpur failed to reach the prescribed standard of one meeting a month, the two Zamindari Local Boards in Sambalpur of three meetings in the year. The attendance of non-official members fell below forty per cent in the following Local Boards:—Dinapore, Bihar, Jamui, Kishanganj, Bargarh and the Southern Zamindari Local Board in Sambalpur. The percentage of attendance of non-officials was highest in Bettiah (77·5 per cent). General elections were held for all the Local Boards in the Gaya district.

The Local Boards in the Patna district were entrusted with the maintenance of several additional roads. The two newly-established Local Boards in the Champaran district were entrusted, subject to the general control of the District Board, with the management and control of village roads and pounds, the passing of repair estimates in connection with educational and medical buildings, sanitation works, inspection of schools, and the appointment and dismissal of teachers in Primary Schools. Elsewhere there was no change in the duties entrusted to Local Boards.

Union Committees.

204. The aggregate income of these bodies amounted to Rs. 63,602 compared with Rs. 44,356 in 1916-17 and Rs. 40,729 in 1915-16, and the total amount spent by them was Rs. 58,655 compared with Rs. 39,214 and Rs. 39,239 in the two previous years. Sixteen Union Committees received contributions from the District Boards amounting to more than Rs. 600 a year, the amount which the Sanitary Conference of August 1913 suggested as the minimum contribution, and twenty-four levied special taxes for sanitary purposes under section 118C of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, yielding Rs. 26,726 against Rs. 17,852 in the previous year.

The activities of the Unions were confined, as before, almost entirely to sanitary measures and conservancy arrangements, occasional repairs to roads, the management of pounds and the improvement of the supply of drinking water. The Union Committees at Bundu and Gumla in the district of Ranchi were re-constituted during the year. The Union Committee of Dhanbad is to be replaced by a municipality in view of the growing importance of that mining centre.

Financial results.

205. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 20,81,717 to the credit of District Boards and the total receipts including direct taxation by Union Committees amounted to Rs 88,47,468. The aggregate amount available for expenditure was thus Rs. 1,09,29,185 of which Rs. 86,58,614 was spent, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 22,70,571.

The income and expenditure under the main heads of account during the past two years are compared below :—

Income.

	1916-1917.		1917-1918.	
	Amount.	Percentage of total income.	Amount.	Percentage of total income.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.		Rs.	
Land Revenue	11,105	·12	16,626	·18
Provincial rates	55,42,258	66·8	54,60,780	61·7
Interest	36,041	·41	49,187	·55
Law and Justice	22,026	·25	26,418	·3
Police (Pounds)	2,31,078	2·6	2,10,288	2·3
Education	9,12,461	10·5	11,31,563	12·8
Medical	90,007	1·04	1,01,053	1·14
Scientific and other minor Departments	17,708	·2	16,665	·19
Receipts in aid of compassionate allowance.	233	·002	233	·002
Stationery and Printing	4,176	·04	4,473	·05
Miscellaneous	29,455	·34	22,089	·24
Railways	1,665	·01	5,582	·06
Civil Works (including ferries) ...	10,05,661	11·6	11,31,241	12·7
Loans	50,000	·6	Nil	...
Deposits and advances	6,67,285	7·74	6,71,270	7·6
Total ...	86,21,159	...	89,47,468	...

Expenditure.

	1916-1917.		1917-1918.	
	Amount.	Percentage of total expenditure.	Amount.	Percentage of total expenditure.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.		Rs.	
Interest and debt	14,499	·17	17,859	·2
Administration	1,92,659	2·26	2,14,063	2·47
Police (Pounds)	13,752	·16	14,694	·17
Education	15,04,165	17·6	15,29,714	17·6
Medical	6,38,199	7·4	7,04,770	8·1
Scientific and other minor Departments	1,09,262	1·2	1,11,003	1·2
Superannuation allowances and pensions	80,337	·94	83,768	·96
Stationery and Printing... ...	49,533	·58	48,095	·55
Miscellaneous	29,479	·34	21,889	·25
Famine relief	80,182	·94	2,335	·002
Railways	13,256	·15	Nil.	...
Civil Works (Public Works) ...	49,48,829	58·6	47,94,299	55·3
Repayment of loans	20,660	·24	31,605	·36
Deposits and advances	8,24,485	9·6	10,84,520	12·5
Total ...	85,19,297	...	86,58,614	...

INCOME.

Land Revenue.

206. (Rs. 16,626).—The increase was due mainly to receipts from the taxes levied by the Union Committees of Begusarai and Jhajha in the district of Monghyr, Madhipura and Supaul in the district of Bhagalpur, Bundu and Gumla in the district of Ranchi, and Balarampur in the district of Manbhum, and to better collections by the Chas and Dhanbad Union Committees in Manbhum.

Provincial Rates.

207. (Rs. 54,60,780).—The receipts under this head showed a net decrease of Rs. 81,478, which was shared by all the District Boards in the Tirhut and Bhagalpur Divisions, the Gaya District Board in the Patna Division, the Hazaribagh and Ranchi District Boards in the Chota Nagpur Division, and the Puri District Board in the Orissa Division. The decrease in most cases was attributed to the payment of cesses for the March *kist* of 1918 after the close of the year owing to the last six days of the year having been holidays. In Patna and Shahabad revaluation produced an increase while in Manbhum there were increased receipts from coal mines.

Police Pounds.

208. (Rs. 2,10,288).—The total number of pounds fell from 1,399 to 1,394, and the receipts from Rs. 2,31,078 to Rs. 2,10,288.

In Purnea the system of triennial settlement of pounds was introduced but proved unsuccessful and in the Nawada Subdivision, the annual system was re-introduced on account of the discovery of malpractices. Elsewhere triennial settlements were reported to have worked satisfactorily.

Ferries.

209. (Rs. 2,54,852).—Receipts fell slightly from Rs. 2,56,299 to Rs. 2,54,852.

Contributions.

210. A sum of Rs. 50,000 was placed at the disposal of each Commissioner for augmenting the resources of the District Boards and District Committees. Further sums of Rs. 50,000, Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 10,000 were subsequently allotted to the Commissioners of the Chota Nagpur, Bhagalpur and Orissa Divisions, respectively, for the same purpose. A grant amounting to Rs. 42,848 was also distributed among the Boards for the improvement of water-supply in rural areas. In addition, the following grants were made for specific purposes:—

(1) To the Palamau District Board—

(*a*) Rupees 3,000 for the improvement of the road from Pakripat to Netarhat.

(*b*) Rupees 17,263 for the Latihar-Nirasi road.

(*c*) Rupees 1,600 for the Chandwa-Kuru section of the road from Ranchi to Daltonganj.

(*d*) Rupees 38,908 for the construction of a bridge over the Auranga river at Kechki.

(*e*) Rupees 15,886 for the improvement of the Sarjughat road.

(2) The Hazaribagh District Board—

(*a*) Rupees 36,700 for the improvement of the roads from Kodarma to Debour and from Lokai to Dhorakolla in Kodarma to facilitate the transport from the mines of mica for military purposes.

(*b*) Rupees 10,000 for the construction of bridges for the Hazaribagh-Chatra road.

(3) To the District Board of Ranchi—

(*a*) Rupees 6,000 for the improvement of the road from the Koel crossing to Pakripat.

(*b*) Rupees 30,000 for the improvement of the Lohardaga-Sirguja road.

(*c*) Rupees 35,000 for the improvement of the Koel-Pakripat and Ghagra-Netarhat roads.

(*d*) Rupees 16,000 for the construction of a flush causeway over the Banki and a bridge over the Khatwa river.

(4) To the Manbhum District Board—

Rupees 8,000 for the construction of a bridge over the Kharni Jore on the Gobindpur-Pakhuria road.

(5) To the Patna District Board—

Rupees 4,083 for the construction of a boundary ditch between the Patna District Board road and the Fathua-Islampur Light Railway.

211. No loans were taken by any District Board. **Loans.**

EXPENDITURE.

212. (Rupees 2,14,063).—The increase of Rs. 21,404 in the aggregate expenditure under this head was shared by all the divisions. The increase in Gaya was due to the appointment of four additional clerks for the four Local Boards and the employment of four temporary clerks in connection with election work. The increase in the other District Boards calls for no remarks. **Administration.**

213. (Rs. 15,29,714).—There was an increase in expenditure of Rs. 25,549 which was shared by the District Boards of Patna, Shahabad, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, Palamau, Manbhum, Puri and Balasore. The increase was most noticeable in Patna and Bhagalpur where it was due to the raising of the emoluments of the trained teachers of primary schools and to larger grants-in-aid. **Education.**

Many of the Boards spent less than the prescribed minimum on education, but they cannot plead lack of funds. Grants of about 3,25 lakhs recurring, for the extension of primary education have of late years been made from the Imperial Grants. The Boards have also recently been relieved of expenditure on Middle English Schools and their Inspecting Pandits replaced by Government Sub-Inspectors.

109 middle schools were maintained and managed by District Boards against 108 in the preceding year, and the cost of their maintenance rose from Rs. 1,48,467 to Rs. 1,53,895. Of these schools those of the Middle English status have since been converted into schools aided from provincial revenues. The number of primary schools maintained increased by 41 with a consequent increase in expenditure from Rs. 84,198 to Rs. 92,832. The total sum paid in the form of grants-in-aid amounted to Rs. 11,60,269 against Rs. 11,16,839 in the previous year.

214. There was no change in the number of special schools and industrial schools maintained by District Boards. Scholarships were awarded to students attending other special schools, such as the Bihar School of Engineering, the Veterinary College at Belgachia, the Deaf and Dumb School, the Medical Schools, the Government School of Art at Calcutta and the Government Weaving Institute at Serampore. Two peripatetic sewing mistresses were engaged by the Cuttack District Board to teach sewing and kindergarten to girls. **Special schools.**

215. (Rs. 5,75,066).—The increase of Rs. 61,882 in the expenditure on medical relief was shared by all the Boards except Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr, Ranchi, Manbhum, Balasore and Sambalpur. In Patna, the rise was due largely to additional contributions to the Barh and Bihar Municipal dispensaries for their improvement and better equipment. The increase in Shahabad was due to the opening of new dispensaries at Mohania, Kochas and Gazipur and to the bringing of the Nasriganj Dispensary under the direct management of the Board. In Darbhanga larger contribuions were made to municipal dispensaries. In Bhagalpur two new dispensaries were opened at Katoria and Panchgachia. The increase in Purnea was due to an increase in the rate of pay for the doctors, a rise in the price of medicines and larger grants to municipal dispensaries. The Hazaribagh District Board made a further contribution towards the construction of the Chatra dispensary building. The increase in Cuttack was due mainly to the repairs to the boats of the floating dispensary and to the payment of grants for **Medical.**

the construction of the Leper Asylum at Cuttack, to the General Hospital of Cuttack and to the Kendrapara and Jajpur dispensaries. The increase in Puri was due to the payment of a special contribution to the Pilgrim Hospital.

The minimum fixed by Government for expenditure on medical works was exceeded by all the Boards in the Bhagalpur, Tirhut and Orissa Divisions. Manbhum failed to attain the prescribed standard owing to the failure of its programme for building dispensaries through lack of iron, cement and other materials. The apparent failure of the Boards in the Patna Division is attributed partly to the mistake in debiting the expenditure incurred in the construction of medical buildings under the head "45—Civil Works".

The number of dispensaries maintained by District Boards rose from 154 to 165, but that of aided dispensaries fell from 88 to 85. New dispensaries were opened in Shahabad (3), Muzaffarpur (2), Bhagalpur (2), Purnea (1) and Sambalpur (1). Three travelling dispensaries were maintained by the District Board of Saran, one by the District Board of Champaran and one by the District Board of Shahabad, all of which are reported to be doing useful work. The travelling dispensary in Sambalpur, which was started in the previous year, was closed as it was found to be a failure.

Sanitation.

216. (Rs. 1,29,704).—The expenditure rose by Rs. 4,689. The largest expenditure was incurred in Shahabad (Rs. 20,244), Gaya (Rs. 19,306), Patna (Rs. 18,864) and Bhagalpur (Rs. 16,114) and the least in Hazaribagh (Rs. 1,462).

The sanitary work done by the Boards included the cleansing of villages, disinfection of wells, improvement of water-supply and sanitary arrangements at *melas*. Plague was more virulent and widespread than in the previous year, and all Boards took measures to combat it. The three districts in the Patna Division suffered from floods in August, and measures had to be taken to check the subsequent spread of cholera; these were especially prompt and efficient in the Patna district, a great part of which was under water for some weeks.

Veterinary charges.

217. (Rs. 90,016).—The expenditure was practically the same as in the preceding year. The District Council of Sambalpur was considering a scheme for the improvement of cattle and proposes to start a farm as soon as good bulls can be secured. Many of the District Boards maintained stud bulls. The Puri District Board carried out some agricultural improvements in the Parikud Estate.

Pension.

218. (Rs. 43,332).—Pensionary charges showed a net decrease of Rs. 2,136.

Famine relief.

219. (Rs. 2,335).—The small expenditure under this head is an index of the satisfactory agricultural conditions which prevailed during this year.

Railways and Tramways.

220. No expenditure was incurred under this head.

Civil works.

221. (Rs. 47,94,299).—The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 47,94,299 against Rs. 49,48,829 in the preceding year. The decrease of Rs. 1,54,530 was shared by the District Boards of Shahabad, Saran, Champaran, Darbhanga, Monghyr, Purnea, Palamau, Manbhum, Cuttack, Balasore and Sambalpur. The decrease was generally due to the postponement of building operations owing to the lack of iron, cement and other materials.

Heavy expenditure was incurred by the Patna District Board in repairing the damage caused by floods.

The total expenditure on "Original works" under the head "Communications" fell from Rs. 18,58,016 to Rs. 16,16,796 while that on "Repairs" rose from Rs. 15,83,608 to Rs. 17,94,800. The total expenditure on "Original works" under the head "Buildings" fell from Rs. 3,71,728 to Rs. 3,11,063 and that on "Repairs" from Rs. 64,413 to Rs. 62,441.

The total mileage of metalled roads maintained rose from 1,749 to 1,826, that of unmetalled roads fell from 14,302 to 14,139; the mileage of village roads rose from 8,537 to 8,724. The average cost of maintenance of these three classes of roads was Rs. 422·1, 55·9 and 22·4 per mile, respectively.

The improvement of inter-district communications continued to receive attention in the Tirhut, Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur Divisions.

222. Nothing was spent by the Patna Board on account of railway feeder roads. The Gaya and Shahabad Boards spent Rs. 1,375 and Rs. 3,762, respectively. In the Tirhut Division, no feeder roads were constructed during the year, but the expenditure incurred in maintaining such roads amounted to Rs. 2,906 in Saran, Rs. 319 in Champaran, Rs. 1,892 in Muzaffarpur, and Rs. 1,663 in Darbhanga. The District Boards of Monghyr and Bhagalpur spent Rs. 23,085 and Rs. 231, respectively, on the construction and the Boards of Hazaribagh, Palamau, Ranchi and Manbhum spent Rs. 2,319, Rs. 37,867, Rs. 43,206 and Rs. 18,222, respectively, on the maintenance of railway feeder roads. In the Orissa Division, the expenditure was Rs. 9,734 in Cuttack, Rs. 3,295 in Balasore and Rs. 204 in Sambalpur. Railway feeder roads.

223. (Rs. 1,65,823).—The expenditure showed a net decrease of Rs. 45,738. Increases occurred in the districts of Saran (Rs. 1,260), Muzaffarpur (Rs. 1,586), Hazaribagh (Rs. 1,175), Palamau (Rs. 352), Balasore (Rs. 3,030) and Sambalpur (Rs. 2,256); while the following districts returned a decrease:—Patna (Rs. 8,824), Gaya (Rs. 1,412), Shahabad (Rs. 1,443), Champaran (Rs. 2,460), Darbhanga (Rs. 3,655), Monghyr (Rs. 5,853), Bhagalpur (Rs. 15,167), Purnea (Rs. 6,337), Ranchi (Rs. 1,873), Manbhum (Rs. 2,319), Cuttack (Rs. 5,494), and Puri (Rs. 560). The minimum standard of expenditure fixed by Government (Rs. 5,000) for the improvement of rural water-supply was reached by all District Boards except Ranchi which spent only Rs. 3,337. Water-supply and water-works.

224. (Rs. 24,930).—In Muzaffarpur the expenditure on the survey of the drainage channels and taking flood observations amounted to Rs. 12,140. The Saran District Board spent Rs. 3,911 in repairing a drain and collecting material for improving bye-lanes. The District Board of Darbhanga spent Rs. 3,262 in constructing side drains along roads. The drainage scheme at Jhajha and drains in the Sore Bazar in Balasore were completed. Drainage.

225. (Rs. 52,548).—The total outlay decreased by Rs. 907. Arboriculture.

226. (Rs. 22,70,571).—The aggregate closing balances, excluding deposits, amounted to Rs. 19,07,124 against Rs. 17,58,200 in the preceding year. The actual balances were generally far in excess of the prescribed minimum. To a partial extent these large balances were due to the exercise of war economy and the difficulty of obtaining building materials. Closing balance.

From their balances, the following sums were invested in war loan bonds by the Boards noted below:—

	Rs.
Gaya	50,000
Shahabad	1,00,000
Saran	75,000
Bhagalpur	20,000
Purnea	50,000

227. The year was inevitably one of small progress owing to the difficulties which the Boards had to meet of a shortage of essential materials and restrictions on railway traffic. The unprecedented floods in the Patna and Gaya districts in August caused an enormous amount of hardship and damage. In Gaya the total damage was estimated at thirteen and a half lakhs and the rapidity with which the District Engineer and his staff repaired the damage and restored communications where possible deserves special commendation. Owing to the shortage and high price of salt the Boards were called upon to. General observations.

undertake the novel work of arranging for its import and retail sale. Their measures were generally successful and resulted in a regular supply of salt at a much reduced price.

Many of the District Boards gave permission to their District Engineers to join the Indian Army Reserve of Officers on terms similar to those allowed to government servants. Several supplied steam-rollers and other stock urgently required by the Military Department.

Audit.

228. The Examiner of Local Accounts, in his Annual Report on the working of the Local Audit Department for the year 1917-18, drew attention to various defects and irregularities observed in the course of audit, which point to the necessity for closer supervision over account work and the checking of measurements and passing of bills by the District Engineers. Owing to their failure to demarcate all their roadside lands and to maintain a complete record of them several District Boards have sustained material loss.

Indian Defence Force.

229. The following Indian Defence Force units were in existence during the year :—

1. 1st Bihar Light Horse.
2. 39th Chota Nagpur Regiment.
3. St. Michael's School Cadet Corps.

Marine.

[Administration Report of the Orissa Ports.]

THE PORTS OF ORISSA.

Finance.

230. The general depression of Trade at the Orissa ports continued during the year 1917-18 owing to the continuance of the war. The total receipts including contributions from Government amounted to Rs. 14,205 and the expenditure was Rs. 9,154.

Trade.

231. As in the previous year there were no dutiable imports at any of the ports. The value of the coasting import trade of Cuttack and Puri was nil, while at Balasore it amounted to Rs. 17,09,043 against Rs. 14,36,230 in 1916-17. The total value of free goods including treasure exported from Balasore amounted to Rs. 7,85,002 against Rs. 11,89,857 of the preceding year.

Arrival and Departure.

232. The vessels entering the ports during the year numbered 82 with an aggregate tonnage of 14,428 against 90 with an aggregate tonnage of 14,251 in 1916-17. The number that left the ports was 81 with an aggregate tonnage of 14,265 against 89 with an aggregate tonnage of 14,088 in the previous year.

Inspections.

233. The ports were inspected several times by the Port Officer of Cuttack and Balasore ports. The Port Officer of Calcutta visited them once during the year.

Health of the Ports.

234. The health of the ports was fairly good throughout the year.

STEAM BOILER COMMISSION.

Administration of the Act.

235. The administration of the Bengal Steam Boiler and Prime Movers Act of 1879, in those places of Bihar and Orissa in which the Act is in force, continues to remain in the hands of the Boiler Commission under the Government of Bengal.

Inspection of boilers.

236. The number of boilers inspected was 1,537 against 1,502 in 1916-17 and the fees realized on account of such inspections amounted to Rs. 27,835 against Rs. 26,852 in the preceding year.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[The report of the Agricultural Department, Bihar and Orissa, for the year ending on the 30th June 1918.]

Organization.

237. The Agricultural Chemist, who had been acting as Principal of the Provincial Agricultural College, was confirmed in the latter appointment with effect from the 18th December 1917, on which date the permanent incumbent, Mr. Woodhouse, died of wounds in France while on military duty. The death of Mr. Woodhouse has deprived the department of a most valuable officer. The staff was still short by one Deputy Director of Agriculture, absent on military service in Mesopotamia.

Agricultural stations.

238. The number of farms and stations remained the same. The area of the Sipaya Cattle-breeding and the Cuttack Agricultural farms was extended. Proposals were sanctioned for new experimental and seed farms at Sambalpur, Khurda, Ramgarh and Purulia, to deal with the special agricultural problems of the adjoining localities. The scheme for the sugarcane station was generally revised during the year and has since been submitted to the Government of India for approval. Under the scheme the station is to be both the head-quarters of a second economic botanist and a sugarcane-selecting station. Pending the opening of the station a number of selected canes were grown at the Sipaya farm and their sugar content analysed under the direction of the Agricultural Chemist.

Agricultural Education.

239. In the number of applications for admission to the Sabour College there was a large increase; the short course of two years introduced in 1916 in place of the diploma course of three years was popular, and attracted a better class of students. The scheme for training certain selected students in practical agriculture at the various government farms prior to their admission to the college as government stipendiaries gave satisfactory results; and there is reason to hope that the department will soon be able to find a sufficient number of trained men to fill up the sanctioned posts in the subordinate branch of its service. Two stipend-holders were in practical training at each of the farms at Bankipore, Sabour, Cuttack and Ranchi and one at Sipaya preparatory to their admission to the college; of these, one at Bankipore and one at Sabour resigned; of the two students at Ranchi, one joined the Sabour College and the other was found medically unfit. Eight student-cultivators were under training during the year at the Cuttack farm. Of these four completed their training and returned to their homes.

Nature study and the study of plant life were introduced into the syllabus in middle, guru training and primary schools in Orissa, but it is too early to say whether such instruction is likely to be of any practical assistance in the developement of agriculture.

Research and Experiments.

240. Research and experimental work was continued on the usual lines, but no result of outstanding importance was obtained. An attempt was made to ascertain the precise effect of the practice of *nigar*, or temporary drying of the wet rice lands before inflorescence, which is customary in the area commanded by the Sone, and involves an enormous expenditure of water from the irrigation canals. The results have not yet been of a definite character, and the experiments are being continued.

The distribution of improved seeds, especially of Pusa No. 12 wheat, *indrasail* paddy, sugarcane, Kakaya jute, hemp and cotton continued to receive the attention of the department, and a rice survey was undertaken.

Agricultural Associations, Fairs and Shows.

241. The Associations of Patna, Bhagalpur and Orissa in particular, and some of the better developed of the co-operative societies, were of assistance in drawing public attention to agricultural demonstrations. Demonstration through the agency of *kamdars*, or trained cultivators under the supervision of District Inspectors, continued and this agency may well be increased. Ten agricultural and industrial shows were held against fourteen in the previous year; these shows were assisted by grants totalling Rs. 3,150. They provided an opportunity for a practical exposition of the use of improved agricultural implements.

Agricultural Engineering and well-boring.

242. Boring operations were confined to the Bhagalpur and Tirhut divisions in Bihar and to the Balasore district in Orissa. They met with a fair measure of success, especially at Balasore. The majority of the borings completed during the year were in the nature of experiments made at government expense, requisitions from private parties being limited by the present prohibitive cost of material.

Publication of Agricultural information.

243. In addition to the periodical reports and returns interesting articles on agricultural matters were published by the college staff at Sabour in the half-yearly journal issued by the department and bulletins on different subjects relating to agriculture were also published.

Arboriculture.

244. Satisfactory progress in arboriculture was maintained by the District Boards and Road Committees. The minimum expenditure fixed by Government was generally exceeded. During the year the expenditure incurred by District Boards and Road Committees on maintaining and planting out trees and nurseries amounted to Rs. 53,594. Receipts from the sale of trees and fruits amounted to Rs. 12,284.

Fisheries.

245. Fishery investigations continued to be carried out by the staff common to the two Governments of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa. The investigations of the department in Bihar and Orissa were confined to hilsa, and the breeding of carp in tanks. The artificial propagation of hilsa has so far been unsuccessful, but the observations made at Cuttack, Rajmahal and Sahibganj during the year added greatly to the existing knowledge of the habits of this fish. The number of carp fry distributed by the department during the year in Bihar and Orissa was 285,000. The demand is reported to be increasing.

Veterinary Department.

[Report of the Civil Veterinary Department in Bihar and Orissa for 1917-18.]

Veterinary Instruction.

246. The Veterinary College at Belgachia in Bengal continued to be the training centre for the students from Bihar and Orissa. Seventeen sat for the final examination, and of these thirteen were successful: but their standard of education is still low and the new candidates admitted for training have, as in previous years, been few and ill-qualified. No marked improvement can be expected until the conditions of service are made more attractive.

Organization and Staff.

247. Four new graduates of the Bengal Veterinary College were appointed to the subordinate staff as Veterinary Assistants, but the number on the roll on the 31st March 1918 was two less than that in the preceding year owing to the transfer on various duties of four assistants and dismissal of one for failure to join his post.

The conditions in which the department is at present working are such as to fix narrow limits to its efficiency whilst imposing an undue burden on the Superintendent. The revised proposals for the reorganization of the department which have recently been submitted to the Government of India include a large increase in the supervising staff and better conditions of service for all branches of the service, calculated to effect a great extension in the usefulness of the department.

Cattle-Disease.

248. The reporting of outbreaks of epidemic by the police improved except in the Tirhut Division. Rinderpest was not so violent as in

the preceding year, but caused considerable mortality in Ranchi, Palamau, Gaya, Monghyr and Cuttack. In the last district the efforts of the department were hampered by opposition based on religious prejudices which are not likely to disappear until education is more widely diffused. The district of Shahabad, which suffered severely in the previous year, was practically free from the disease. The total number of outbreaks attended by veterinary assistants fell off considerably and this was attributed by the Superintendent to bad communications, heavy rains, increased deputation of officers and absence on leave of an unusually large proportion of the staff. Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia was the cause of about 6,000 deaths and anthrax was responsible for 103 cases distributed over 9 districts. Foot-and-mouth disease was very prevalent but the large increase in the number of these latter outbreaks may be due to more efficient reporting.

Inoculation fell off by about 10,000 cases. The greater part of this decrease occurred in Ranchi, where the staff of inoculators was reduced.

249. The number of hospitals remained the same. The District Board of Manbhum undertook to build and equip a hospital for the coal-fields at Dhanbad. The number of cases treated by the existing hospitals during the year was 30,820 against 28,180 in 1916-17. **Dispensaries.**

250. The management of the government cattle-breeding farm at Sipaya was satisfactory during the year. The number of the herd increased from 302 to 382 head. Thirty-five female-calves and a cow were sold by public auction for Rs. 574 and twenty-two bulls of breeding age were reserved for distribution to the public. Progress at the farm of the Bettiah Wards Estate was also satisfactory. **Breeding operations.**

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa for the year ending the 31st May 1918.]

251. The table below summarizes the progress of societies of all kinds made during the year ending on the 31st May 1918 :— **General Progress.**

SUMMARY OF GENERAL PROGRESS.

Year.	Societies.			Total.	Remarks.
	Central.	Non-Agricultural.	Agricultural.		
1	2	3	4	5	6
			Number of Societies.		
1916-17	21	65	1,337	1,423	
1917-18	21	64	1,616	1,701	
	+0	−1	+279	+278	
			Membership.		
1916-17	2,316	10,106	56,200	68,667	
1917-18	2,511	11,582	60,778	74,915	
	+195	+1,476	+4,578	+6,248	
			Working Capital.		
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	
1916-17	18,41,460	3,01,056	21,61,057	47,17,448	
1917-18	21,44,436	3,34,783	29,81,629	61,09,537	
	+3,02,976	+33,727	+8,20,572	+13,92,089	

The aggregate working capital showed an increase of nearly 14 lakhs against 4 lakhs in the preceding year and the total number of members of societies of all descriptions rose from 68,667 to 74,915.

Provincial Banks.

252. There was a great diminution of local deposits in the Provincial Bank, as a consequence of the high prices of ordinary commodities and the diversion of large sums to the war loan. The Provincial Bank was, however, able to meet the heavy demands which were made and its assistance saved many central banks from financial difficulty. The total working capital increased from Rs. 4,13,875 to Rs. 6,48,689 and the aggregate investments in loan and on cash credit account amounted to Rs. 4,81,976 against Rs. 2,19,009 of last year. The reserve fund swelled from Rs. 7,502 to Rs. 11,000. The total holding in securities amounted to the substantial sum of Rs. 98,025 and a special reserve of Rs. 6,447 was created to cover any loss contingent on the depreciation in the value of such securities.

Central Banks.

253. The number of central societies other than the Provincial Bank was 2,110, the same as in the preceding year, but two new banks at Kendrapara and Cuttack, which were registered just before the close of the year and did not commence work, are excluded from the statistics of the year under report. Arrangements were made for the opening of four other banks in the Orissa Division. The working capital of central banks increased from Rs. 18,41,460 to Rs. 21,44,436 and the number of affiliated societies from 1,231 to 1,489; paid-up share capital aggregated Rs. 2,79,877, and their reserve Rs. 76,398. An important question connected with the working of these banks came up for decision during the year as a result of which all overdue interest will be excluded from the profits. A further salutary rule which was adopted is that debts for which extensions have been granted should be classed as overdue.

Guarantee Union.

254. When the number of societies affiliated to a central bank is large, the supervision which the latter can afford to give is inefficient, and it has been necessary to create intermediate organizations called guarantee unions of which the primary function is to act as the delegate of the central bank in scrutinizing the affairs of individual societies. During the cold weather of 1916-17, 18 such unions were registered, the total number rising to 23.

Agricultural Societies.

255. The number of agricultural societies increased from 1,337 to 1,616. Of these 1,489 were affiliated to central banks leaving only 127 societies controlled by private workers. The numbers of members and the total working capital rose from 56,200 and Rs. 21,61,057 to 60,778 and Rs. 29,81,629 respectively, while the reserve fund increased from Rs. 2,86,536 to Rs. 3,78,844. The Chota Nagpur Catholic Mission Society, which is the largest of these societies, has now 11,687 members with a working capital of Rs. 4,37,664 against 11,016 members with a working capital of Rs. 1,41,399 in the previous year. The large increase in working capital was due to large deposits from the members of the labour corps numbering 2,000 sent from France. The German Evangelical Lutheran Mission Societies, which were left practically without any supervision after the internment or repatriation of the German missionaries, are indebted to the interest taken in their working by the Bishop of Chota Nagpur which alone enabled these societies to continue.

Non-Agricultural Societies.

256. The total number of non-agricultural societies decreased from 65 to 64, but the number of members and the working capital rose from 10,106 and Rs. 3,01,056 to 11,582 and Rs. 3,34,783 respectively. Ministerial officers' societies, 22 in number, were generally satisfactory. Of the four societies which deal in stores, the three most successful were the Secretariat Co-operative Stores at Ranchi, which is open to Government servants employed in the Secretariat and its attached offices, the Chota Nagpur Catholic Stores and the Fatwa Co-operative Stores. The Secretariat Co-operative Stores had a successful year. The Fatwa Co-operative Stores was registered towards the close of the year, its chief object being to save raiyats from the forced sale of grain at a time when the price is low. Traders' and Artisans' societies were

nine in number. Among the most successful were the Christian Toli Carpenters' and Blacksmiths' Societies at Bettiah. Raw-material, cast iron and wood are purchased for members by the societies, which also undertake the sale of the finished product.

The weavers' societies numbered 14. The cotton weavers were handicapped by the high prices of yarn: but the *tasar* weavers had a prosperous year. The weavers of Ranchi and the durry-makers of Gulzarbagh were materially assisted by orders from the Munitions Board.

The Fatwa Co-operative Dispensary, the only one of its kind in India, which was started in the previous year, provided medical treatment to no less than 25,482 persons against 15,578 persons in 1916-17 Of the two societies for the supply of milk, the Manglagouri society at Gaya had to be closed as the members proved to be quite beyond redemption. The Mayaganj society at Bhagalpur worked satisfactorily but its success was due largely to the close personal supervision of its organizer.

257. Breeding bulls were distributed to various co-operative centres. Two cattle shows were held at Jahanabad and Nawada for the exhibition of calves bred from the bulls supplied by the Agricultural Department; and that department gave further assistance in the distribution of improved seed to members through their societies. **Co-operation and Agriculture.**

258. A provincial conference of co-operators was held in Bankipore in February 1918 and sat for three days. The Lieutenant-Governor opened the conference and awarded certificates of honour to several honorary workers. **Conference.**

259. The Bihar and Orissa Co-operative Federation was registered during the year and promises to supply an urgent need for the future development of co-operation. A proportion of the growing cost of audit will now be met by the societies from a contribution levied on them by the Federation and it has opened a press of its own, which will reduce considerably the cost of printing now borne by Government. **Audit Federation.**

260. The work of audit and inspection was satisfactory and there was a large decrease in the number of societies which it was found necessary to liquidate. Two new rules were framed by Government under section 43 of the Co-operative Societies Act. One directed all registered Co-operative Socieites to invest their reserve funds according to the decision of the Registrar. The other provided that no balance sheet of any society of which any member is a registered society should be accepted at its annual general meeting and distribution of its profits made unless and until the balance sheet has been certified by the Registrar or his agent to be a correct statement of the position of the Co-operative society concerned. **Miscellaneous.**

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bihar and Orissa, 1917-18. Crop Forecast of Bihar and Orissa, 1917-18. Area and Yield of certain principal crops in India, 1917-18.]

261. The monsoon was heavy and prolonged and gave copious rain throughout the province; it was over the normal in almost all districts from May till October. There was however no winter rain, and this prevented a bumper harvest of cereals, but benefited peas, mustard and tobacco. The outturn of the *bhadai* crops for the province as a whole was estimated at normal, i.e., 100 per cent, of the winter rice crop at 115 per cent, of oilseeds at 105 per cent and of wheat and other *rabi* crops at 95 per cent of the normal. In short, except for floods which did small damage and for the absence of winter rains the year was, from the point of view of the agriculturist, an exceptionally good one. **Character of the season.**

The table below shows the estimated area and outturn in 1917-18 of *bhadai*, winter and *rabi* crops in comparison with the corresponding revised estimates of the previous year and of a normal year:—

Name of harvest.	Normal area in acres.	Area in acres cultivated during 1916-17.	Area in acres cultivated during 1917-18.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn how much represented the outturn for the year—	
				1916-17.	1917-18.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Bhadai	9,143,200	8,614,600	8,808,900	90	100
Winter ... Winter rice ...	11,552,100	12,459,800	11,963,600	110	115
Winter ... Sugarcane and other crops.	605,000	543,000	534,000	97	100
Rabi	11,849,900	10,265,300	10,437,600	108	95
Total ...	33,150,200	31,882,700	31,744,100	104	104

Bhadai Crops.

262. The total area cultivated during 1917-18 with different kinds of *bhadai* crops was estimated at 8,808,900 acres against 8,614,600 acres in the preceding year. Weather conditions were on the whole favourable in the beginning of the season but heavy rain and floods in the early part of August damaged the crops in Patna, Gaya and Shahabad, and also in parts of Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Hazaribagh and Palamau. Some damage was also done to crops in parts of Cuttack and Puri by floods towards the end of the month. The outturn of the *bhadai* crops for the province as a whole was estimated at normal, viz., 100 per cent against 90 per cent in the preceding year. The total area under *bhadai* food-crops was estimated at 8,359,500 acres compared with 8,130,500 acres of the preceding year and a normal area of 8,535,700 acres.

Jute.

263. The weather conditions were not uniformly favourable for jute in the important districts of Purnea and Cuttack. In March the rainfall was above the normal in Champaran, Bhagalpur and Balasore and slightly below the normal in the remaining four jute districts. In April the rainfall was below the normal and in May and June it was above the normal in all jute districts. In July it was above the normal in Champaran, Muzaffarpur and the Santal Parganas and below the normal in the remaining districts. In August the rainfall was below the normal in all jute districts, except in Cuttack and Balasore where it was above the normal. Some damage was done by floods in parts of Bhagalpur and the Santal Parganas. The area under jute in the province was 223,300 acres against 224,000 acres of the previous year. The outturn of the crop for the province was estimated at 100 per cent against 82 per cent of 1916-17. The gross yield of the crop for the province was 669,800 bales against 552,000 bales of the previous year.

Indigo.

264. Indigo is cultivated in eight districts of Bihar, chiefly in the Tirhut Division. The weather conditions were favourable at sowing time and also for the growth of the crop. But owing to unfavourable weather and floods during manufacture and possibly to excess of rain the outturn was disappointing. Owing to the high prices obtainable there was an increase

in acreage and according to the estimates of the district officers the area sowed was 86,700 acres against 80,600 acres of the previous year and the total yield of the crop worked out to 15,318 factory maunds (1,148,800 lbs.) against 16,292 factory maunds (1,216,500 lbs.) of the previous year.

265. *Winter rice.*—Heavy rain and floods in the early part of August damaged or swept away seedlings and delayed transplantation in parts of South Bihar. Some damage was also done in Cuttack by floods which occurred towards the end of the month. The rainfall in August was much below the normal in Darbhanga, Bhagalpur and Purnea where transplantation was retarded, but in September rain was sufficient and benefited the standing crops. The damage done by rain and floods was local; material benefit was given by the favourable *hathiya* rain and a very good crop was harvested in most districts. The area sown with winter rice in 1917-18 amounted to 11,963,600 acres against 12,459,800 acres of the previous year and a normal area of 11,552,100 acres. The outturn of the crop for the province as a whole was estimated at 115 per cent of the normal as against 110 per cent estimated in the previous year. *Aghani* Crops.

266. Sugarcane is cultivated chiefly in Bihar. Outside Bihar the crop is important only in Manbhum and Hazaribagh. The weather conditions were generally favourable but damage by floods was reported from Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Cuttack and Puri. Insects also injured the crop in parts of Saran where there was a very poor crop in the Siwan and Gopalganj Subdivisions. On the other hand in Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga the crop was one of the best on record. According to the estimates of the district officers the area under the crop was 263,400 acres against 277,700 acres of the previous year. The outturn of the crop for the province as a whole was estimated at normal, i.e., 100 per cent, as against the same estimate of the previous year. Sugarcane.

267. Bihar is the chief *rabi*-growing tract, but *rabi* crops and vegetables are also important in Cuttack and parts of Chota Nagpur. The weather conditions were generally favourable in the beginning of the season. There was good moisture in the soil in consequence of which a larger area was sown. The actual increase would have been larger but for excess of rain in *chitra* which in some districts further prevented sowings by its accompaniment of severe outbreaks of malaria and loss of labour. The lack of winter rain affected the final outturn. Excessive rain in October was also responsible for the decrease in outturn in most districts of Orissa. The dry winter however suited all peas and most other pulses which everywhere were a bumper crop as were tobacco, rape and mustard. The total area under all kinds of *rabi* crops was estimated at 10,437,600 acres against 10,265,300 acres of last year. The total normal area under these crops is 11,849,900 acres. The total area of various *rabi* food-crops including wheat amounted to 8,221,200 acres against 8,039,300 acres of the preceding year. The area sown with different *rabi* non-food-crops was 2,216,400 acres against 2,226,000 acres, the estimate of previous year. The outturn of the wheat crop was estimated at 95 per cent, that of oilseeds at 105 per cent, and of other *rabi* crops at 95 per cent of the normal. *Rabi* crops.

268. The cotton crop is small in acreage and of local importance only. The early crop is mostly grown in Ranchi and the Santal Parganas. The less important districts are Angul, Sambalpur and Manbhum. Sowings began in normal time and the weather conditions were favourable till October when the excessive rainfall was deleterious. The crop was on the whole fair. The late variety is chiefly cultivated in North Bihar, Cuttack and Singhbhum. The weather conditions were favourable and the crop was reported to be generally good. Some damage was however done by floods in parts of South Bihar. The area under the early and late varieties of the cotton crop in the province was 69,000 acres against 68,000 acres of the previous year and the outturn of the two cotton crops, early and late, was estimated at 17,483 bales against 16,992 bales, in 1916-17. Most of this is consumed locally. Cotton.

Forests.

[The Annual Progress Report on Forest Administration in the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year 1917-18.]

Staff.

269. The inadequacy of both the superior and the subordinate cadres of the Forest Department was under consideration and proposals for strengthening them have since been submitted to the Government of India. The two additional posts in the Imperial Forest Service sanctioned by the Secretary of State in 1915 remained unfilled as no recruits were forthcoming. Assistant Conservator of Forests was absent on military duty.

Area.

270. A small addition of 565 acres has been shown in the area of reserved forests, due in part to the rectification of errors in the last year's statement, and in part to the formation of a reserve for a Casuarina plantation in the Puri Forests division. During the year 2,164 acres of protected forests were given up for cultivation.

Communications and buildings.

271. Rs. 80,152 were spent on the construction and repairs of roads and buildings and other works against Rs. 69,310 in the previous year. Sixty-nine miles of new cart road and eighteen miles of new bridle paths were constructed at a cost of Rs. 26,336 and Rs. 250, respectively, compared with fifty miles of new cart road and thirteen miles of new bridle paths costing Rs. 24,324 and Rs. 410, respectively in 1916-17. The expenditure on new buildings was Rs. 19,041 against Rs. 16,243. A sum of Rs. 12,105 was spent on repairs to existing buildings.

Forest Offences.

272. The total number of forest offences reported showed little change being 1,422 compared with 1,447 in the previous year and an average of 1,433 during the preceding three years. The percentage of convictions rose from 87 to 91.

Losses by fire, etc.

273. Out of the total area of 1,166,777 acres under protection 62,569 acres, of reserved and 15,657 acres of protected forests were burnt by 70 outbreaks of fire, compared with 11,799 acres of reserved forests and 14,809 acres of protected forests which were destroyed by 60 outbreaks in the previous year. The results would have been better but for a single serious fire in the Porahat division in which an area of 27,904 acres of reserved forest was burnt. There is some reason to believe that this great loss was due to deliberate incendiarism on the part of rival contractors, who wished to damage the sleeper stacks of the Bengal Timber Trading Company ; and it is regrettable that though a large reward was offered by the company the offenders were not detected. The area under fire protection increased by 54,140 acres of protected forest, all in the Puri division. Apart from the case of incendiarism in Porahat climatic conditions were not generally so favourable ; and the percentage of successful protection fell to 93·3 against 98·67 in 1916-17.

Revenue.

274. The revenue, expenditure and surplus were Rs. 7,98,724, Rs. 4,00,547 and Rs. 3,98,177 respectively against Rs. 5,61,667, Rs. 4,47,859 and Rs. 1,13,808 in the previous year and an average of Rs. 5,22,290, Rs. 3,82,507 and Rs. 1,39,783 for the previous five years. The expansion of revenue which exceeds 40 per cent occurred almost entirely under the head of major produce, and was due to the great demand for timber and sleepers by the Munitions Board. A steady improvement in its revenue since the province was started has been a satisfactory feature of the work of this department.

Conservation of private forests.

275. No definite progress was made in the particular problem of arresting the destruction of private forests in the Chota Nagpur Division. The time was however not entirely lost, and as a result of the preparatory work done the managers of a number of encumbered estates in the Ranchi and Palamau districts and the manager of the Ramgarh Wards Estate have since submitted applications under section 38 of the Indian Forest Act for the reservation or protection of the forests of those estates.

Artificial and Natural reproduction.

276. The Casuarina plantations at Puri reached a sufficiently advanced state to justify the continuance of the experiment on a larger scale. Attempts were made to propagate the *mahua* tree in Singhbhum and the *tarwad* shrub (*cassia auriculata*) in the same district and in various parts of Orissa.

General.

277. Not the least satisfactory part of the year's work was the assistance which the department was able to give to the Munitions Board in the supply of timber. The larger part was sent indirectly through the Agent of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway but squares, piles and scantlings in large quantities were supplied by departmental agency to the Timber Supply Officer at Bombay and the Superintendent of the Rifle Factory at Ishapur. A special inspection was made of the slopes of the catchment area of the Damodar river in the Hazaribagh district with a view to examining the possibility of taking them over and conserving the forests.

Manufactures and Mines.

[Statistics of British India, Part I.—Industrial.]

Jute.

278. The area under jute was estimated at 223,300 acres against 224,000 acres in the previous year. The gross outturn was in round figures 669,800 bales against 552,000 bales of the previous year.

Indigo.

279. The area under indigo was 86,700 acres against 80,600 acres in the previous year. The gross outturn was 15,318 factory maunds against 16,292 factory maunds in 1916-17.

Tea.

280. The area under tea in 1917 was in the 21 gardens of the Ranchi district : 2,088 acres and 90 acres in the single garden of the Hazaribagh district. The outturn of tea, black and green, in 1917 was 309,208 lbs. against 399,971 lbs. in 1916.

Sugar.

281. The total output of sugar produced by the sugar refineries, in the Tirhut Division and in Shahabad, Monghyr and Bhagalpur, was reported to be 554,865 maunds against 603,181 maunds, the revised figure of the previous year. Some factories report shortage of coal and delay in exports owing to congestion in railway traffic. Prices obtained were profitable.

A considerable quantity of cane grown in this province finds its way to the Pertabpur and Bhabnauli concerns in Gorakhpur, United Provinces, the sugar produce of which is reported in the statistics of the United Provinces. The Bhabnauli concern took 172,647 maunds of cane from Saran and Champaran. In the Pertabpur Factory, about half of the output of sugar in 1917-18, i.e., about 11,000 maunds, was manufactured from the cane supplied from this province.

Coal.

282. During the year 444 coal mines were worked in the province against 344 in the previous year and the total output of coal was 11,931,141 tons against 10,762,222 tons in the preceding year. This represents a little more than two-thirds of the total output of India. The greater part of the coal was mined in the Manbhum district where 404 mines yielded 10,414,418 tons. The daily average number of persons employed in mines rose from 91,900 to 105,910. The necessity for increasing the supply of coal available for military purposes and for industries instrumental in the prosecution of the war led to the appointment of a Coal Controller towards the end of the year but his operations did not affect the period under review.

Iron-ore.

283. Two mines were worked during the year in Singhbhum and yielded 178,302 tons of the ore. The total output exceeded that of last year by 36,062 tons. The mine at Puri was not worked but there was employed a daily average of 22 persons in extracting red-oxide from its old stock of ore. The mines at Singhbhum gave employment to a daily average of 1,576 persons against 1,072 in the preceding year.

Mica.

284. The number of mines worked during the year was 512 against 337 in the previous year and the total output was 29,191 cwts. against 19,333 cwts. in 1916. The daily average number of persons employed rose from 11,930 to 16,252.

Copper-ore.

285. Two copper mines at Singhbhum were worked during the year and yielded 20,108 tons of ore against 2,173 tons in 1916. The mines gave employment to a daily average of 1,672 persons against 962 in the preceding year.

Miscellaneous Manufacture and Industries in each Division.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year 1917-18.]

Patna Division.

286. The mica industry in Gaya enjoyed a prosperous year, and several new mines were started in the district. The mines at Sabaiya Tanr were bought by Government to secure for war purposes the high class mica obtained from them. There was a good demand for lac and the *tasar* industry of Kadirganj in the Nawada subdivision in Gaya did well; similarly weavers at Bihar profited from the decline in the supply of foreign cloths and their co-operative societies helped them to make the most of their opportunity. On the other hand Messrs. Mukharji and Company's factory at Arrah was unable to work up to its full capacity, and the mills and iron foundries at Dinapur in Patna were closed down owing to the shortage of coal. The export of raw sugar in the Jahanabad subdivision was hampered by the difficulty of securing railway freight, and there was a fall in the output exported by the four stone and lime quarries working in the south of Shahabad.

Tirhut Division.

287. The local industries of the Tirhut division, such as indigo, sugar, tobacco, salt and saltpetre generally continued in much the same condition as in previous years. The boom in indigo prices was not maintained during the year. Champaran and Muzaffarpur did not succeed in getting high prices and in some cases had to hold up the last season's outturn: but Darbhanga planters are reported to have done better. In Darbhanga too the sugar industry had a good year, while the area under cane in Champaran shrank from 21,300 to 18,500 acres. Both sugar and rice mills were adversely affected by the curtailment of railway traffic. A new rice mill was built at Narkatiaganj in Champaran. Tobacco leaf is prepared, stored and dried at three places in the Darbhanga district by the Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Company with its local headquarters at Dalsingsarai and the tobacco industry owes much of its development to that Company. Messrs. H. Dear and Company retained their timber concessions from the Ramnagar estate, and in the Rajpur Soheria forest of the Bettiah Estate catechu was manufactured to the value of about Rs. 40,000. Exports of sabai grass were made from the north of the Bettiah Subdivision. A new factory for making mother-of-pearl buttons and chains for watches was started by Babu Lalita Prashad Sahu, a banker of Motihari. The Superintendent of the Salvation Army Settlement for Magahiya Doms at Chautarwa started net-bag making on a small scale: and succeeded in producing from his looms *dhotis*, *saris* and *jharans* of excellent quality. Export of red chillies was made on a large scale from parts of Roserah, Dalsingsarai and Samastipur thanas.

Bhagalpur Division.

288. The mica mines at Mahesri were worked to their full capacity under European supervision and are now employing over 2,000 workers a day. New mines have been opened at Paira and Jirulia, and also in thana Chakai in this district. Slate quarrying by Messrs. Ambler and Company, Limited, prospered, and writing-slates are now being manufactured by the Company. Brick-making in Monghyr and the oil mills in Bhagalpur were affected by want of coal, and weaving by country looms in the former district by the high prices of materials. The weaving of coarse cloth by country looms received an impetus from the unusually high prices of the imported articles, and cultivators in Bhagalpur were reported to be interesting themselves in cotton cultivation. The Cigarette Factory of the Peninsular Tobacco Company

at Monghyr continued manufacture on its previous scale and *biris* of Jhajha and the *bafta* and *tasar* of Bhagalpur retained their place on the market. The two oil mills in Monghyr maintained production and local dyes did well. The dismantling of the Bhagalpur-Bausi Railway line during the year for military purposes hampered local trade to a small extent.

289. As elsewhere country-made coarse cloth, owing to the high price of imported material, found its way in an increasing extent to the local markets. Silver filigree work and horn work were carried on as usual in the town of Cuttack. The boots, shoes and other leather articles produced by the Utkal Tannery at Cuttack, under the management of the Hon'ble Mr. M. S. Das, C.I.E., maintained their reputation in the market. The red oxide mine at Bhubaneswar did little business, as there was little demand for its produce by railways. The cocoanut trade, which is of much importance in Puri, suffered from the shortage of freight; stocks accumulated and could not be moved. Mica deposits were found in parts of Angul and prospecting operations were conducted by Messrs. Chrestien and Company of Hazaribagh. Ruby mica, suitable for government purposes, has already been discovered in two places, and prospects are favourable. In Sambalpur also hopes are entertained of a further development of the mica industry. The Hingar-Rampur Coal Company continued to work, and during the year a mining lease for coal was granted to Mr. T. P. Yeoman for an area of 1,300 acres. Applications for the extraction of *Chhui* (white earth) and for general prospecting leases for coal, iron, mica, etc., have been made, and prospecting for diamonds is being undertaken. Mr. Casy's Sisal hemp plantation worked well, and is being extended. The alloy industry (*Kansa*) showed no perceptible development, owing to the indebtedness of the workmen

Orissa Division.

290. It is in the exploitation of the rich mineral deposits of the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division that the greatest industrial development is to be found. The Tata Iron and Steel Company at Sakchi in the district of Singhbhum made a profit of one crore and 11 lakhs of rupees for the year ending June 1917 against 68 lakhs in the preceding twelve months, and were busily engaged throughout the year in the supply of steel rails for Mesopotamia and other theatres of war. The coal industry in Manbhum was exceptionally prosperous, the total output being 10,287,909 tons. The Bengal Coal Company took up a large area in the Hutar coal-field from the Raja of Chainpur and started work preliminary to regular mining operations. The variety of minerals in Singhbhum illustrates the mineral wealth of that area. Iron and manganese ore are the most important: next comes copper followed in turn by gold, chromite, phospheric rock, phosphate of lime, yellow and red ochre, wolfram, china clay, lime, asbestos and limestone. The companies owning the largest concessions in that district are the Bengal Iron and Steel Company, the Tata Iron and Steel Company and the Indian Iron and Steel Company. Messrs. Bird and Company applied for a prospecting interest in over 10 square miles for manganese. Copper deposits are confined to the Dhalbhum estate, where the Cape Copper Company, who have acquired large interests in the Rajdiha Mining Company, hold large areas in the name of the Rakha mines. The Company had however difficulty both in obtaining proper plant and competent workmen and in securing adequate coal and coke for their purposes in competition with government and other demands on the coal mines. Next to the Copper Company, Messrs. Octavius Steel and Company have large interests in all minerals except copper and precious stones, followed by Messrs. Gillanders Arbuthnot and Company whose interests are confined to copper. The Dhalbhum Gold and Mineral Prospecting Company, Limited, continued to work on the Porojama section; 3·648 tons were crushed yielding 2,462 ozs. of gold, of the average value of 13½ dwts. per ton. Chromite deposits in the Kolhan were examined under the orders of the Government of India, by Mr. L. L. Fermor, Superintendent of Geological Survey, India. The Singhbhum Chromite Company and Messrs. Luxman Rao Naidu worked the mines in the Kolhan Government Forest for chromite and the quantity extracted amounted to 1,158 tons valued at Rs. 9,266 and 659 tons valued at Rs. 15,116 respectively. In limestone the largest interests are held by the Sutna Stone and Lime Company in the Kolhan: this mineral

Chota Nagpur Division.

will take an increasingly important place as a flux in smelting metal and as a raw material in the production of cement. There was a large demand for china clay, the most important interests in which are held by Mr. Grenon both in the Kolhan and Porahat estates and by Babu N. N. Goswami and Babu Motilal Ishwer Das in the Kolhan. In Hazaribagh the mica mines were worked under government supervision to their fullest capacity. The joint East Indian Railway and Bengal-Nagpur Railway Colliery at Bermo and Baidkao continued to be developed. The Great Indian Peninsular Railway colliery at Khargali commenced work. Trade in timber forest produce and lac continued. *Sabai* grass provides a raw material in the production of paper: and the trade in that product benefited from the development of Indian mills to meet the shortage of paper imports from other countries.

Working of the Indian Factories Act.

[Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam, for the year 1917.—Statistics of British India, Part I.—Industrial.]

Number of Factories and system of work.

291. The total number of factories working in the province during the year 1917 was 60 against 57 in the preceding year. The average daily number of persons employed was 39,388 of whom 34,147 were adult males against 34,036 and 30,245 of the preceding year. In 17 factories work was carried on under the system of a midday stoppage, and in 31 under other arrangements. The remaining 12 factories were exempted under Part C of Schedule 1 of the Act. The Sunday holiday was observed in 27 factories, Sunday or a substituted day in 12 factories, 16 factories were worked under other arrangements and the remaining 5 factories were exempted under various sections of the Act.

Inspections.

292. Inspections by the whole-time inspectors were made in five factories once and the remaining 55 were not inspected at all, for the reason that the inspectors were largely employed on special work connected with the grant of priority certificates. The District Magistrates of Darbhanga, Shahabad, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr and Bhagalpur and the Deputy Commissioners of Singhbhum and Manbhum made inspections of factories in their respective districts.

General health of operatives.

293. The general health of the operatives was good, and no serious sickness in epidemic form was reported.

Wages and general conditions of operatives.

294. Conditions of employment were generally satisfactory. There was a rise of from 5 to 10 per cent in the wages paid in Railway and other Engineering Works owing to war conditions.

Employment of women and children.

295. The daily average number of women employed was 4,433 and that of children 1,108 against 2,835 and 956 in the preceding year.

Fencing of machinery.

296. Where accidents had shown that additional fencing might prove a safe-guard against a repetition of the accident, measures were taken to secure greater safety but owing to war conditions and the additional war work with which the department had to cope, it was not possible to give this important subject the full attention which it would have received in normal times.

Accidents.

297. The number of accidents reported during the year was 703 against 637 of the preceding year. Of these 11 were fatal, 89 serious and 603 minor against 15, 133 and 489 respectively in 1916.

Prosecutions.

298. There were no prosecutions under the Act.

Trade.

[Statistics of British India, Part III—Commercial.]

I.—Foreign Sea-borne Trade.

Foreign Trade.

299. No foreign trade was carried on during the year in consequence of the war.

II.—Coasting Trade.

300. The coasting trade also suffered and was confined to the port of Balasore. Its value is shown below:— Coasting Trade.

Imports.

		1916-17.	1917-18.
		Rs.	Rs.
Merchandise ...	Indian	8,07,640	11,52,371
	Foreign	6,28,590	5,56,672
Treasure	... ...	...	...
	Total ...	14,36,230	17,09,043

Exports.

Merchandise ...	Indian	10,67,782	7,52,302
	Foreign	...	...
Treasure	... ...	1,22,075	32,700
	Total ...	11,89,857	7,85,002
	Grand Total ...	26,26,087	24,94,045

III.—Frontier Trade.

301. The volume of the trans-frontier trade of Bihar and Orissa with Nepal declined from Rs. 402·9 lakhs in 1916-17 to Rs. 370·4 lakhs. There was a decline in the import of live-stock and food-grains and in the export of cotton manufactures. The total value of the trade does not include treasure, the registration of which continues to be defective as articles of treasure are generally carried as personal luggage. Frontier Trade.

302. The aggregate value of the imports declined from Rs. 250·6 lakhs to Rs. 214·0 lakhs. The chief articles of import from Nepal are food-grains (principally rice), oilseeds, jute (raw), live-stock, tobacco, hides and skins and ghee. The rice imported was valued at an amount representing 42·2 per cent of the total value of the imports and its quantity was maunds 35·4 lakhs against maunds 42·4 lakhs in the previous year; the decrease was due to the bumper crops in Bihar during the last two seasons. Of the oilseeds imported from Nepal, mustard and rape and linseed continued to be the most important, though in the year under review there was a decline in quantity of 11·3 per cent and 2·0 per cent and in value of 13·3 per cent, and 5·8 per cent, respectively. The imports of jute (raw) from Nepal increased to 269,775 maunds valued at Rs. 20,81,975 from 235,075 maunds valued at Rs. 17,99,446 showing an increase of 14·9 per cent in volume and 15·7 per cent in value. The imports of tobacco increased by 12·7 per cent in volume and 37·6 per cent in value. The import of ghee showed a slight decline of about 7·7 per cent in quantity and 6·5 per cent in value. The trade in live-stock dropped in value by 41·3 per cent, that in hides and skins increased in value by 6·4 per cent. Imports.

303. The export trade increased by about Rs. 4·16 lakhs or 2·7 per cent over that of the preceding year. Manufactured articles as distinct from raw produce constitute the bulk of the exports from Bihar and Orissa. Of these Exports.

cotton yarn and piece-goods, mostly of foreign origin, head the list. The export of these articles has been steadily declining since 1915-16 and in the year under review dropped in volume from maunds 89,291 to maunds 72,154, but the value rose by 17·1 per cent. The decline in volume and increase in value is due to the adverse effect of the war on India's trade in piece-goods. The exports of metals and articles manufactured from metals dropped by 23·3 per cent in volume and 4·5 per cent in value. Salt dropped in volume by 15·8 per cent, but owing to the high market prices, the value increased by 9·0 per cent. Other important articles of export are tobacco, oils, sugar, spices, animals (living) and provisions. Tobacco improved in value by 23·4 per cent and oils by 8·9 per cent, the trade in sugar showed no marked fluctuation.

IV.—Trade by rail and river.

Division and value of trade.

304. The main division of this trade (exclusive of animals and treasures) and its estimated value are exhibited in the following table :—

Year.	Imports into Bihar and Orissa from other Provinces including Calcutta.	Exports from Bihar and Orissa to other Provinces including Calcutta.	Imports into Bihar and Orissa from Calcutta.	Exports from Bihar and Orissa to Calcutta.
1	2	3	4	5
1916-17	Mds. 29,114,874	Mds. 283,906,969	Mds. 8,114,402	Mds. 81,388,337
	Rs. 25,17,54,432	Rs. 42,63,26,570	Rs. 13,88,69,518	Rs. 14,00,41,173
1917-18	Mds. 25,378,101	Mds. 293,960,121	Mds. 5,601,397	Mds. 60,155,414
	Rs. 27,85,30,135	Rs. 55,79,73,812	Rs. 14,10,46,119	Rs. 12,07,73,755

The import trade fell about 12·8 per cent in volume, but owing to the rise in market prices especially of articles of foreign origin, its value increased by 10·6 per cent. Of the total value of Rs. 27·8 crores of imports some 50·7 per cent was contributed by the Calcutta trade block, 20 per cent by Bengal excluding Calcutta, 13·3 per cent by the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and 4·3 per cent by the Central Provinces and Berar, and the remaining 11·6 per cent by other provinces.

The export trade increased by 3·5 per cent in volume and 30·9 per cent in value. Of the total exports valued at Rs. 55·8 crores some 21·7 per cent went to Calcutta, 43·7 per cent to Bengal excluding Calcutta, 11·1 per cent to Bombay including the port, 9·5 per cent to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, 3·6 per cent to the Punjab, 2·3 per cent to the Central Provinces and Berar, 2·2 per cent to Karachi and the remaining 5·9 per cent. to other provinces.

Imports.

305. The principal articles of import from Bengal including Calcutta were cotton manufactures (Rs. 751·8 lakhs), metals and their manufactures (Rs. 284·9 lakhs), railway plant and rolling stock (Rs. 186·1 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 75·8 lakhs), oils (Rs. 126·2 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 84·2 lakhs); from the United Provinces, cotton manufactures (Rs. 88·1 lakhs), metals and manufactures thereof (Rs. 26·3 lakhs), railway plant and rolling-stock (Rs. 43·9 lakhs), grain and pulses (Rs. 56·7 lakhs); from the Central Provinces and Berar, cotton manufactures (Rs. 40·2 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 24·7 lakhs); and from Bombay, cotton manufactures (Rs. 107·4 lakhs).

306. The principal exports from Bihar and Orissa to Bengal including Calcutta were coal and coke (Rs. 359·1 lakhs), railway plant and rolling-stock (Rs. 1,850·6 lakhs), metals and their manufactures (Rs. 294·6 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 194·7 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 24·9 lakhs), tobacco (Rs. 66·8 lakhs), oilseeds (Rs. 110·4 lakhs), lac (Rs. 116·6 lakhs) and hides and skins (Rs. 93·6 lakhs) ; to the United Provinces coal and coke (Rs. 124·3 lakhs), metals and manufactures thereof (Rs. 40·6 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 56·9 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 71·4 lakhs) and tobacco (Rs. 50·3 lakhs) ; to Bombay including the port, coal and coke (Rs. 276·1 lakhs) ; to the Punjab, coal and coke (Rs. 115·7 lakhs) ; and to Madras coal and coke (Rs. 67·1 lakhs). **Exports.**

307. For the purpose of estimating internal trade by rail, the province is divided into four blocks known as the Patna City, the Bihar, the Orissa and the Chota Nagpur blocks. The trade between these blocks was estimated at 31,134,000 maunds of goods and consisted chiefly of coal and coke, food-grains, metallic ores, sugar, wood and timber, chalk and lime, stones and railway materials. **Internal trade.**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Establishment.

308. The retention of the second Chief Engineer for a further period of three years from the 1st April 1917, was sanctioned by the Secretary of State and the proposal to abolish the appointment of Under-Secretary in the Irrigation Branch approved. **Administration.**

In order to facilitate the erection of the new power plant from Dacca and the fitting up of house connections in the several residences, a temporary Division, designated the Electrical Works division, was formed with effect from the 1st August 1917, with its head-quarters at Patna.

In the Chota Nagpur division, the temporary subdivision at Chandwa was abolished on the completion of the work for which it was opened. For the construction of the new inspection bungalows and the Châlet at Netarhat, a temporary independent section, called the Netarhat section, was opened in the division. In the Sambalpur division, a temporary independent section was formed at Barpali for the construction of causeways on the Bargarh-Bolangir Road and for the investigation of Irrigation schemes in the district of Singhbhum.

Alterations were made in the boundaries of the Kendupatna and Kendrapara subdivisions of the Mahanadi division to make them more compact and more accessible.

In the Special Works division, Bankipore, a sixth temporary subdivision was constituted with effect from the 1st December 1917, while subdivision No. 5 was temporarily abolished with effect from the 10th December 1917.

Buildings.

Imperial Civil Works.

309. The main Post Office building at Patna was made over to the Postal authorities and work was started on the construction of residences for the Postmaster-General, Deputy Postmaster-General, Superintendent of Post Offices, Traffic, and for the European and Indian Personal Assistants to the Postmaster-General. Quarters for the subordinate staff also were under construction. The combined Post and Telegraph Office with Postmaster's and Head Signaller's quarters at Gaya was completed. Reinforced brick-work staircases were added to the east and west sides of the new Post Office building at Motihari and other minor improvements were introduced. The construction of **Post and Telegraph Offices.**

quarters for the staff employed in the Puri Post Office approached completion. Materials were collected for the construction of quarters for the clerks and menials employed at the Post Office at Raxaul and the site was acquired. Additions and alterations were carried out to the Post Office building at Mohania and the Sub-Postmaster's quarters at Kudra were provided with enclosure walls. Materials were collected for rebuilding the cracked wall and providing a Raniganj tiled roofing over the existing roof of the Post Office building at Jellasore.

Miscellaneous.

310. Progress was made with extending and improving the electric installation at the Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa. Materials were collected to start the work of constructing the quarters for the Electrical Engineer, a causeway over the Bur-Gandak river was built to afford facilities for crossing the river and the Minor Works Grant at the disposal of the Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India was used to effect petty improvements.

The meteorological observatory shed, rain gauge and platform for the sunshine recorder at Netarhat, as well as the rain gauge at Bargarh were shifted to better sites. Four blocks of temporary quarters and a well were constructed for the Settlement staff at Daltonganj.

The office of the Chief Inspector of Mines at Dhanbad was improved and a well was constructed for the residence of the Inspector of Mines.

Provincial Works.

Court buildings.

311. Improvements were made in the new civil court building at Cuttack, and in the record-room of the old collectorate at Balasore. The southern portion of the record-room of the Puri collectorate was rebuilt. A verandah was added to the Treasury building at Cuttack, counters were fixed and some petty work done on the building. Additions and alterations were made in the accountant's room and the record-room of the district court at Sambalpur and also in the Deputy Commissioners' courts at Purulia and Hazaribagh. A separate record-room was constructed for the Deputy Commissioner's court at Ranchi. The liquor depôt at Purulia was converted into an office library for the Deputy Commissioner's court and additions and alterations to the Treasury buildings at Sambalpur were in progress. Materials were collected for the construction of a court building for the Sessions and Subordinate Judges at Hazaribagh. Minor improvements were introduced in the *Hajat* room of the Deputy Commissioner's court at Daltonganj, the Treasure guard's quarters at Sambalpur, the office rooms of the Sub-Judge and additional Sub-Judge of Gaya and the chaukidars' shed attached to the civil court at Arrah. The Judicial Commissioner's court at Ranchi was provided with sky-lights. The land acquired for the new civil court at Gaya was levelled and materials were collected. A portion only of the sanctioned additions and alterations to the Patna collectorate was taken in hand, the remainder abandoned. Materials were collected for additions and alterations to the Darbhanga collectorate. The construction of a stall with 20 shops in the compound of the civil court at Bankipore was completed. Improvements were carried out in the civil court building at Muzaffarpur and additions and alterations were made to the civil court building at Chapra. Iron racks were supplied to the record-room of the Champaran collectorate. The addition of a *malkhana* and a court room to the subdivisional court building at Kendrapara, the construction of an additional building for the subdivisional court at Phulbani and the quarters for the ministerial staff of the subdivisional court at Simdega which were in progress from the previous year were completed. Witness-sheds for the new subdivisional courts at Barpali and Giridih were completed. The subdivisional court buildings at Barh and Kishanganj and guard's quarters at Bettiah were extended. Materials were collected for the extension of the subdivisional court building at Gopalganj. A building was constructed in the court compound at Deoghar to accommodate the *malkhana*, *hajat* and offices of the Deputy Superintendent and court Sub-Inspector. The work of constructing the Deputy Magistrates' courts at Chapra was in progress. Minor works were completed in other court buildings.

Additions and alterations were made to the Munsif's court at Dhanbad. New pankhas were supplied to the Munsif's court at Sasaram and a *malkhana* with witness-shed was added to the Munsif's court at Gopalganj. Materials were collected for the construction of the double Munsifi at Buxar.

312. The construction of the circuit house at Netarhat known as "The Châlet" was completed. Improvements were made in the roof of the western verandah of the circuit house at Chapra and the roads and drains in the compound of the circuit house at Dhanbad were put in good order. A flag-staff was erected in the compound of the circuit house at Chapra and a hedge was planted round the compound of the circuit house at Purulia. **Circuit Houses.**

313. The tiled verandah in the distillery building at Bettiah was dismantled and damages to the compound wall repaired. A stone-paved pathway was provided in the spirit warehouses at Madhubani, Phulparas and Patori. Two rooms were constructed in the compound of the liquor depôt at Madhubani for storing *ganja*. A verandah was added to the liquor warehouse at Bihta and an office room to the liquor warehouse at Jahanabad. Additions and alterations were made to the distillery building at Giridih and sunshades were provided to the windows of the new extensions of the combined *ganja gola* and liquor godown at Sambalpur. The *ganja gola* at Hazaribagh was provided with a light terrace ceiling. **Excise Buildings.**

314. Three blocks of the Hazaribagh central jail were converted into cells for special prisoners and the hospital ward improved. The Settlement shed No. 2 at Hazaribagh was utilized to provide accommodation for the married warders and head warders of the central jail. The construction of two sets of assistant and one set of deputy jailor's quarters in the central jail at Buxar was in progress. **Jails.**

The following works were either completed or were in progress in the central jail at Gaya :—

1. Constructing 5 godown cells, a cook-shed and a latrine.
2. Constructing a new hospital and a tuberculosis ward.
3. Constructing additional Sub-Assistant Surgeon's quarters.
4. Constructing latrine and urinals for the paid staff and prisoners employed in the Press Department.
5. Providing fire appliances for the Press and Forms stores.

Besides the above, the construction of quarters for the Press employés which was taken up by the Jail department was nearing completion while the construction of the partition wall between the Press and the proposed new hospital was eventually made over by the Jail department to the Public Works department. Fifteen electric lights were installed in the Press by the Jail department and spare parts were obtained for the electric plant and made over to that department. Bricks were collected for the construction of a tuberculosis ward in the central jail at Bhagalpur and the construction of a new double-storied barrack was in progress.

Quarters were built for the 2nd Assistant Jailor and Sub-Assistant Jailor attached to the Cuttack jail. Improvements to the Cuttack and the Puri jails were in progress. Quarters for the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Assistant Jailor and Warders attached to the Chaibassa and Darbhanga jails were completed. A separate cook-shed was constructed for the jail hospital at Chaibassa. Additions and alterations were made in the district jails at Purnea, Motihari, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga.

The construction of family quarters for the head warder of the Phulbani jail was completed. The sub-jails at Nawada, Buxar and Samastipur were improved. The construction of the Jailor's quarters in the intermediate jail at Dumka was in progress.

Police.

315. The roof of the cook-shed attached to the police barrack at Phulbani was replaced by a roof of Ganjam tiles and a portion of the barrack of the Constables' Training School at Chauliaganj, Cuttack, was converted into a cell. Additions and alterations to the police-station building at Angul and to the out-post at Patkura were in progress and materials were collected for a double-storied barrack with a cook-shed for the constables of the Reserve Police Lines at Cuttack. The thana buildings at Simdega were practically completed. The work of rebuilding the police-station at Sohella was nearly completed and the construction of police-station buildings with residential quarters at Saspur was in progress. Improvements were made in the police office at Purulia, and in the constables' cook-sheds attached to the police-stations at Nawada and Raghunathpur. Materials were collected for a barrack for the Armed Police reserve at Daltonganj. Wells were sunk in the Gurkha lines at Doranda and in the compound of the police-station at Sakchi. Venetian doors were provided to the police office building at Sambalpur and a guard room to the police magazine at Chaibassa. A cook-shed was constructed for the under-trial prisoners in the Padampur thana. Improvements were made in the police office at Arrah and a rack was provided for the Forms room. Materials were collected for a police building at Sasaram. The construction of barracks for the accommodation of Armed Police together with quarters for a Sergeant at Jamalpur was in progress. Barracks and kitchen for the Military Police at Bhagalpur were constructed and the building of the Town Police barracks at Purnea were begun. The construction of eight out-post buildings on the Nepal frontier in the Kishanganj subdivision and of the Kotwali police buildings at Bankipore was in progress. The town out-post buildings at Mithapur, Bankipore, were in course of construction and certain additions and alterations to the old Opium Agent's office, Bankipore, for the location of the Pirbahore police-station were taken in hand. A traverse wall was provided in the Reserve Police lines at Bankipore and materials were collected for the accommodation of the Mounted Police Force at Bankipore. Arrangements were made to acquire the site for the new thana buildings at Bettiah.

A house with land was acquired for the Principal of the Police Training College at Hazaribagh and the land demarcated by boundary pillars. Additions and alterations were made in the Police Inspector's quarters at Nimapara and to the Sub-Assistant Surgeon's quarters attached to the police hospital at Sambalpur. A well was sunk in the compound of the Reserve Police Inspector's quarters at Chaibassa and another in the compound of the quarters of the Inspector of Armed Police at Sambalpur was in progress. A water connection was provided to the European Inspector's quarters at Gaya. The quarters of the Inspector of Armed Police at Chapra were completed and the Bandmaster's quarters at Bankipore were in course of construction.

Education.

316. The work on the provision of a system of drainage in the compound of the proposed Ravenshaw College buildings at Cuttack was nearly completed. Other projects that were completed during the year in connection with the Patna College were:—

1. Additional out-houses for the extension of the Minto Hindu and Muhammadan Hostels.

2. Compound wall to the south-west and north of the Chemical Laboratory.

3. Dispensary, Doctor's room and Assistant Superintendent's room on the roof of the Muhammadan Hostel.

4. Lightning conductors to the College buildings.

Administrative approval was given to the construction of new buildings for the Greer Bhumihar Brahman College at Muzaffarpur at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,07,352, but the construction of the Principal's residence and of three hostel blocks only was taken in hand.

The construction of a new block and a drill shed for the Zila School at Balasore was completed. Land was acquired for a play-ground and materials collected for constructing a dwarf wall round it. The compound of the Ravenshaw Girls' School at Cuttack was levelled and enclosed and some materials collected for the construction of a boarding house and the Lady Principal's quarters for the school. A latrine, a urinal and a sky-light were provided to the Ravenshaw Collegiate School at Cuttack. Land was acquired for the proposed school of Engineering at Cuttack and the extension of the hostel attached to the Zila School at Puri was in progress. A start was made with collecting material for the construction of a Hindu and a Muhammadan Hostel with Superintendent's quarters at Hazaribagh, and quarters for the Superintendent of the Muhammadan Hostel attached to the Zila School at Purulia. Improvements were made to the hostel attached to the Zila School at Chaibassa, and to some of the Reformatory School buildings at Hazaribagh. A shed was constructed for keeping drinking water for the boys of the Purulia Zila School. The construction of a separate kitchen for the Muhammadan boarders of the hostel attached to the Zila School at Ranchi was in progress. Lands were acquired for the educational buildings in the Tarbanna area at Bhagalpur. The construction of an additional class room for the City School, Patna, the work of providing pankhas in the Patna Collegiate School and the extension of the water-supply system to the Segregation Hospital, St. Joseph's Convent at Bankipore, were in progress. The remodelling of the Zila School building at Motihari was completed and venetian doors were supplied. The construction of an office building for the Inspector of Schools, Tirhut division, was taken up and completed.

The construction of the Guru Training School building at Dalsahi, a well in the compound of the Guru Training School at Dasarathpur and family quarters for the Head Pandit of the Guru Training School at Phulbani was completed. The deepening of the Goóripukhar tank near the Guru Training School at Balasore and additions and alterations to the Guru Training School at Pattamundi were nearly completed. Materials were collected for the construction of an additional block for 16 workers with office and store rooms in the compound of the Weaving School at Sambalpur. Land was acquired for the approach road to the Guru Training School at Malkera and boundary pillars were erected to demarcate the land acquired for the Bihari School, and the play-ground of the Middle Vernacular School at Hazaribagh.

317. The construction of a tiled roof over the terraced roof of the Civil Surgeon's residence at Laheria Sarai was completed. Sun-shades were provided to the windows of the Civil Surgeon's office at Chapra. The lands attached to the Sub-Assistant Surgeon's quarters at Kanti, Terma and Raipur were formally acquired and the construction of a tuberculosis ward in the Chapra Sadr Hospital was completed. The following works were in progress in the Temple Medical School at Bankipore:— **Medical.**

1. Construction of a power house.
2. Construction of a steam laundry.
3. Addition of a pantry with cupboard to the kitchen for European patients.
4. Extension of the kitchen for Indian patients.

Servants' quarters and an additional store-room were built in the compound of the Temple Medical School, Bankipore, the feeding platform in the Lunatic Asylum at Bankipore was raised and sloped and the tuberculosis ward in the hospital compound at Bhagalpur was completed.

A residence was constructed for the Superintendent of the European and Indian Asylums at Kankey and staff quarters in the Asylum for Indian insanes were in progress. Improvements were carried out in the Asylum for European

lunatics. Temporary arrangements were made for the supply of water to the Asylum from the well in the bed of the Potpoto river pending the erection of a water tower.

The construction of a hospital building at Chatra was in progress and a rest-shed was constructed for the mortuary at Purulia. Improvements to the General Hospital at Cuttack were in progress. Progress was made with the construction of dispensary buildings at Balandapara and materials were collected for the construction of dispensary buildings at Khejuripara and Phiringia in the Khondmals Subdivision.

Minor improvements were made in the Pathological Laboratory, the Anatomical block and the Anatomical class room buildings of the Orissa Medical School at Cuttack.

Land was acquired for a Leper Asylum at Cuttack.

Agriculture.

318. The laying out of the grounds attached to the Sabour Agricultural College was in progress.

Forest.

319. A verandah was constructed on the two sides of the Forest building at Angul.

Registration.

320. Sub-Registry offices were built at Dhamnagar, Soro and Tirtole and one at Kendrapara was nearing completion. Materials were collected for the Sub-Registry offices at Jellasore, Bikram (Patna), Islampur (Purnea), and Kishenpur and work on the construction of the Sub-Registry buildings at Pupri and Phulparas was begun. Quarters were constructed for the Sub-Registrar at Daltonganj. A rural Sub-Registry office at Giridih was under construction. The registration office at Chapra was extended and the liquor ware-houses at Bahera, Benipatti and Ekma were adapted for use as Sub-Registry offices. Land was acquired for a Sub-Registry office at Sheohar.

Monuments and Antiquities.

321. Work on the Black Pagoda at Kanarak was completed. Materials were collected for repairing the several temples at Bhubaneswar which had been declared protected monuments under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act and were in urgent need of restoration. Special repairs were also made to the tomb of Bakhtiyar Khan at Chainpur and the erection of a monument on the battlefield at Buxar was in progress.

Burial-grounds.

322. The level of the Muharrampur Cemetery was raised and new roads within the cemetery compound completed.

Residence for the Lieutenant-Governor and Government Officials.

323. Improvements to the electrical plant and the construction of bath-rooms for the staff quarters attached to the Government House at Puri were completed.

The office of the Private Secretary in the compound of the Government House at Ranchi was extended and a motor garage, petrol godown and stenographer's quarters were constructed. Pumping arrangements were made to water the garden.

Various works of minor importance were carried out in the Chief Justice's residence at Chajjubagh, the Judge's residence (Block B) at Chajjubagh, the Postmaster-General's and the Deputy Postmaster-General's residences at Gulzarbagh, and to the Commissioner's residence at Muzaffarpur. The Council Chamber House at Gulzarbagh was converted into quarters for the Superintendent of the Army Clothing Factory and for the Officer in charge of the Bihar and Orissa Drawing Office.

The Deputy Commissioner's residence at Sambalpur, the Subdivisional Officer's residence at Khurda, the European Deputy Magistrate's residence at Hazaribagh and the Subdivisional Officer's and 2nd Officer's residences at Dhanbad were improved. The compound of the Subdivisional Officer's residence at Giridih was provided with wire-fencing.

The old court building at Jahanabad was converted into a residence for the Subdivisional Officer. Water connections were provided in the two sets of residences of the Indian Deputy Magistrates at Gaya. Land was acquired

for the compound of the Munsif's residence at Buxar and a residence for the Subdivisional Officer was also constructed at Buxar. The residences of the following officers were completed during the year :—

Sub-Deputy Collector, Barh, one Deputy Collector, Bankipore, two Munsifs, Bankipore, Executive Engineer, Patna Division, First Sub-Judge, Bankipore.

And the residences of the following officers were in progress :—

One Munsif at Bankipore, two Sub-Judges at Bankipore.

Various improvements of minor importance were made in the Lalkothi at Gulzarbagh, Indian Deputy Magistrate's residence No. 4 at Bankipore, Munsifs' residences at Hajipur and Chapra and in the Sub-Deputy Collector's residence at Bettiah.

324. Work on the Government House and the Council Chamber at Patna was completed with the exception of a few minor alterations. Residences for the two Hon'ble Members, two Judges in the New Capital area, the Chief Secretary, the Financial Secretary, the Revenue Secretary, two Public Works Department Secretaries and five Under-Secretaries were completed, and work on the construction of residences for the following officers was in progress :— Capital Works, Patna.

Assistant Secretary, Public Works Department, Assistant Commissioner of Excise, Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Police, Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Assistant Sanitary Engineer, Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, Inspector-General of Police, Commissioner of Excise and Salt, Electrical Engineer, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Director of Public Instruction, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Excise and Salt.

Additional work on the Patna High Court and the quarters for the Police attached to the High Court were completed.

In addition to the above the following projects were in hand :—

1. Barracks for menials attached to the Secretariat.
2. Quarters for peons attached to the officers' residences.
3. Quarters for the Compounder and menial barrack attached to the out-door dispensary.
4. Road along the Serpentine.
5. Construction of a Central Power House.
6. Extension of chain fencing in front of the Government House.
7. Construction of a Nursery.
8. Carriage stand on the east of Taylor road.
9. Construction of quarters for the Police in charge of the Secretariat Building.

325. The construction of quarters for the Sectional Officer stationed at Khatmandu was in progress. The construction of a new office at Bankipore for the Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle, was completed and land was acquired for the construction of a Public Works Department Subdivisional office and godown at Bhagalpur. A carp hatchery was constructed at Dhelabagh in the Nasriganj subdivision of the Arrah division. The construction of the Public Works Department subdivisional office and godown with out-houses for the Singhbhum subdivision and the Public Works Department Subdivisional Officer's residence at Chaibassa was nearly completed. The record-room, and the Draftsman and Estimator's room in the Executive Engineer's office at Sambalpur were provided with cloth ceilings. Public Works Department Buildings.

326. The eastern verandah of the Oriental Library at Bankipore was converted into a room. Miscellaneous

Contribution.

327. The construction of a cow-shed in the house of Raja Mukunda Deb of Puri, special repairs to his dwelling house and the re-excavation of a tank in the compound were undertaken. An operation room was constructed for the out-door patients of the Growse Central Hospital at Balasore. The construction of two Memorial covered wells at Doomda and Sanpara was in progress.

An infectious diseases ward was constructed in the main hospital at Sambalpur and venetian shutters were provided to the doors and windows of dormitories, etc., of the Hostel for Zamindars' sons and wards attached to the Zila School at Ranchi. The reconstruction of the roof of the school building attached to the Lutheran Mission at Ranchi was undertaken. Bricks were collected for the construction of a residential college at Bhagalpur and the extension of the Duchess of Teck Zenana Hospital at Patna was completed. The work of enclosing, levelling, dressing and turfing the land acquired for extending the Bihar School of Engineering was commenced during the year. A well was dug in the compound of the civil court at Chapra from the contribution paid by one Amir Chand.

Accidents, storm, fire, flood, etc.

328. An accident occurred at the Zila School, Ranchi, resulting in the death of two coolies who fell from the scaffolding while fixing clamps to the ceiling.

A cyclonic storm passed through Purulia and Dhanbad on the 21st March 1918. A portion of the roof of the Deputy Commissioner's residence at Purulia was blown away and the roofs of other buildings at Purulia and Dhanbad were more or less damaged. Some damage was also done to the new reinforced roof of the stable attached to the residence of the Superintendent of the European Lunatic Asylum at Kankey during the heavy rains.

A statement of expenditure on Original Works—Civil Buildings—is given below :—

	Rs.
Administration	17,27,983
Monuments and antiquities.	7,626
Educational	4,66,411
Ecclesiastical	4,122
Law and Justice	2,19,706
Jails	2,69,903
Police	2,34,595
Medical	5,27,687
Miscellaneous	2,91,203
Forest	1,804
Total ...	37,50,990

Communications.

Through trunk road between Bihar and Orissa.

329. During the past year work on the roads forming a through route between Bihar and Orissa was continued; in the Patna and Gaya districts the alignment of the road was settled and the preliminary earthwork, grading and culverts were started. The Grand Trunk Road in the Gaya district was badly damaged by floods in August 1917 and action was taken to repair the damage done. The causeway over the Lilajan river on this road was washed away and temporary arrangements had to be made to restore communication and the construction of a permanent bridge was under the consideration of Government. The redecking of the bridge over the Barakar river on this road at Chirkunda in the Manbhum district which was in progress at the end of the preceding year was completed.

Chota Nagpur.

330. In the Chota Nagpur division work on the improvement to the Chandwa-Kuru section of the Ranchi-Daltonganj road, including certain improvements to the Teeko bridge, the construction of which was completed in

the preceding year, was nearing completion at the end of the year. Existing culverts in the Hessadi-Tebo and Tebo-Chakradharpur sections of the Ranchi-Chaibassa road were reconstructed with reinforced concrete. The road was also realigned at the 63rd mile and near the Oriyagarh bridge. The metalled surface of the Chaibassa-Jaintgarh road was resectioned in several miles and the reconstruction of bridges where necessary on this road with reinforced concrete floors was completed.

331. For the Bargarh-Bolangir Road in Orissa, it was decided that across the small rivers raised causeways should be substituted for the proposed bridges. The only bridge that remains to be constructed on this road was that over the Bargarh *nala*. The metalling of the Raipur-Sambalpur road was completed and the road was improved by remodelling the old culverts and reconstructing new ones where necessary. The metalling of the Cuttack-Sambalpur road, which was taken in hand during the previous year, was completed and that of the portion of the Cuttack-Sonepur road lying within the town of Banki was commenced. To improve the Angul-Tickerpara road, second section, earthwork, masonry work in bridges, construction of culverts, metalling and stone-cutting, etc., were in progress. Estimates were sanctioned during the year for widening the crests of certain portions of the Cuttack-Ganjam and the Cuttack-Puri roads from 8′ to 12′. These works were started and progress was made. The construction of a causeway on the 16th mile of the Orissa Trunk road to drain off the surplus discharge of the Jalka river was nearly completed. **Orissa.**

332. At Patna, the extension of the Dâk Bungalow road up to the Exhibition road and the construction of a new road from this extension running northward to meet the Fraser road were completed as well as the work of linking the Patna-Gaya road with the Chajjubagh compound. **Inspection and Dâk Bungalows.**

The construction of a first class inspection bungalow with outhouses at Sakchi in the district of Singhbhum was begun and the inspection bungalow at Dhanbad in the Manbhum district was completed.

The construction of an Inspection Bungalow at Katra on the second section of the Cuttack-Sambalpur road and the reconstruction of the bungalows at Bagnadi and Telibandh which were in progress from the previous year were completed.

The two Inspection Bungalows at Netarhat which had been constructed by the District Board of Palamau were taken over by the Public Works Department and the construction of a further additional bungalow at Netarhat was in progress to the end of the year.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

333. A thorough investigation of the junction of the Gandak into the Ganges was made and a cross-section was taken of the latter opposite the Munsif's Court at Bankipore. The construction of new brick revetments at Bankipore along the right bank of the Ganges below the Patna College and near the Bihar School of Engineering which was commenced in the previous year for the protection of the quarters of the Principal of the Patna College, and the Bihar School of Engineering was nearly completed and that of a revetment below the Civil Surgeon's compound and the Club at this station was undertaken and progressed fairly well—two-thirds of the work having been completed during the year. Repairs to damages done to the existing revetment in several places at Bankipore by the heavy floods of the year were undertaken. **Protective Works.**

334. Progress was made with the construction of the metalled road on the crest of the Katjuri left embankment at Cuttack from the Collector's court to the Puri ghat. **Miscellaneous.**

335. The application of the Sijua (Jharia) Electric Supply Company, Limited, for the sanction of the Local Government to the supply of electrical energy to certain areas in the Jharia coal-fields was granted. **Electricity.**

Railways.

Administration.

336. There are no railways under the direct control of the Government of Bihar and Orissa. With the exception of the three following Light Railways of local importance which are subject to a certain measure of control by the Local Government, all the important lines are under the direct administration of the Government of India in the Railway Department (Railway Board) :—

	Gauge.	Mileage.
(1) Arrah-Sassaram Light Railway	2′ 6″	65·26
(2) Bakhtiyarpur-Bihar Light Railway ...	2′ 6″	33·00
(3) Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway	2′ 6″	23·83
Total ...		122·09

Mileage.

337. During the year under report no new railway line was opened to traffic. Owing to the need of railway material by the Military authorities the Bhagalpur-Bausi Branch of the East Indian Railway was dismantled. The total mileage on the 31st March 1918 was—

	Miles.
(1) Standard Gauge	1,660·75
(2) Metre „	1,178·66
(3) 2′ 6″ „	269·31
(4) 2′ 0″ „	39·00
Total ...	3,179·27

Lines sanctioned or under construction.

338. The following lines were under construction or sanctioned for construction during the year :—

	Gauge.	Miles.
Fatwa-Islampur	2′ 6″	27·00
Mayurbhanj Extension	2′ 6″	38·71
Bengal-Nagpur Railway from Kandra-Gomharia...	5′ 6″	5·53
Panposh-Raipura	5′ 6″	14·30
Portion of the Raipur-Parbatipuram Section of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway (from a point near Gurjabota to a point near Bhowanipatna Road).	5′ 6″	92·00

Surveys completed.

339. The following surveys were completed during the year :—

	Gauge.	Miles.
Jagatpur-Kendrapara	2′ 6″	33
Lohardaga-Netarhat	2′ 6″	34
Onlajori-Sulaipat	5′ 6″	15·34
With a branch from Jaypur-Badampur	5′ 6″	10·25

Surveys sanctioned.

340. Authority was given by the Railway Board to undertake the following surveys during the year :—

To the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Extensions Co. for—

(*a*) A detailed survey for a line of railway on the metre gauge from Islampur to Siliguri, via Titalia, a distance of about 36 miles.

(*b*) A detailed survey for a line of railway from Titalia or Ramganj to Jalpaiguri, a distance of about 22 miles.

(*c*) A detailed survey for converting the Kishanganj-Islampur line from 2′-0″ gauge to metre gauge, a distance of about 18 miles.

(*d*) A reconnaissance survey for a line of railway on the 2′-0″ gauge from Islampur to Dinajpur via Lahiri Hat with a branch from Lahiri Hat to Haldibari, a distance of about 89 miles.

Accidents.

341. There were eight minor accidents during the year, including two in which persons were knocked down by passing trains and killed. In none of the others was there any loss of life.

Canals.—Irrigation and Navigation.

[Administration Report of Irrigation Works, Bihar and Orissa, for the year 1917-18.]

342. The transactions of the Irrigation Department for the year 1917-18, so far as they relate to works of Irrigation and Navigation, are shown in the statement below. Works which afford protection from flood or which facilitate drainage are reviewed separately :— Expenditure.

Capital Account.

Heads.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1917-18.	Expenditure to end of 1917-18.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1918.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
PROTECTIVE IRRIGATION WORKS—				
Direct charges	84,32,057	98,626	80,40,617	3,91,440
Indirect charges	2,25,222	2,435	2,22,795	2,427
Total ...	86,57,279	1,01,061	82,63,412	3,93,867
MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS—				
Direct charges	5,26,58,076	7,917	5,24,20,815	2,37,261
Indirect charges	15,25,735	229	15,30,546	—4,811
Total ...	5,41,83,811	8,146	5,39,51,361	2,32,450
MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION—				
Direct charges	6,86,833	...	6,86,833	...
Indirect charges	27,923	...	27,923	...
Total ...	7,14,806	...	7,14,806	...

Revenue Account.

Heads.	Receipts.	Working expenses.			Net Revenue.
		Direct.	Indirect.	Total working expenses.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS *...	26,25,425	15,21,418	1,16,574	16,37,992	9,87,433
MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION—					
Works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept.	1,000	481	24	505	495
Works for which only Revenue Accounts are kept.	7,351	28,600	1,595	30,195	—22,844
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.	3,089	2,629	...	2,629	460

* Inclusive of the Dhaka and the Tribeni Canals.

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Irrigations.

343. The following statements show the areas irrigated during the year compared with the average of the triennial period ending with March 1917:—

Major Works (Productive).

	Orissa Canals.			Sone Canals.			Total.		
	Kharif inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.	*Kharif* inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.	*Kharif* inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the Triennium 1914—17 ...	272,982	6,162	279,144	466,101	100,067	566,168	739,083	106,229	845,312
For 1917-18	264,134	(a) 7,442	271,576	458,388	(b) 68,104	526,492	722,522	75,546	793,068

(a) Season lease.

(b) Includes long lease 21,714 acres and season lease 46,390 acres.

NOTE.—All collections for season leases (*Rabi*) are made in the following year (1918-19) but those for long leases are made during the year 1917-18.

Major Works (Protective).

	Tribeni Canal.			Dhaka Canal.			Total.		
	Kharif inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.	*Kharif* inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.	*Kharif* inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the Triennium 1914—17 ...	52,708	...	52,708	6,761	367	7,128	59,469	367	59,836
For 1917-18	58,801	...	58,801	6,298	(a)872	7,170	65,099	(a)872	65,971

(a) Season lease.

Minor Works.

	Saran Canals.			Teur Canal.			Total.		
	Kharif inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.	*Kharif* inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.	*Kharif* inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the Triennium 1914—17 ...	Canal	closed	...	1,418	29	*1,447	1,418	29	1,447
For 1917-18	...	...	...	1,698	(a)29	†1,727	1,698	(a)29	1,727

(a) Season lease.

* Includes the Madhuban Zamindar's *zirat* land.

† Includes 253 acres of the Madhuban Zamindar's *zirat* land.

NOTE.—All collections for season lease (*Rabi*) are made in the following year (1918-19) and those for long leases are made during the year (1917-18).

344. The length of canals and distributaries in operation during the year 1917-18 compared with the previous year are as follows :— **Length of Canals.**

	Orissa Canals.		Sone Canals.		Tribeni Canal.		Dhaka Canal.		*Saran Canals.		Teur Canal.	
	1916-17	1917-18	1916-17	1917-18	1916-17	1917-18	1916-17	1917-18	1916-17	1917-18	1916-17	1917-18
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Miles	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Main canal (Irrigation) ...	223¾	223¾	218½	218½	61½	62	3½	3½	11·57	†11·57	6·18	6·18
Branch canal (Irrigation) ...	103	133	148¾	148¾	...	...	15¾	15¾				
Distributaries	1,290¾	1,291¾	1,286½	‡1,234¾	160·63	160·63	23¹¹⁄₁₆	23¹¹⁄₁₆	12·48	12·48	6·13	6·13
Of above—Navigable channels ...	204¾	204¾	218½	218½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

* Canals closed since the 1st April 1894.

† Includes minor channels.

‡Part of the Patna distributary has been closed for sanitary improvement of the neighbourhood of the New Capital at Patna.

345. The following statement shows the traffic on the Navigable Canals during the year 1917-18 compared with the average of the triennium 1914—17 :— **Navigation.**

	Orissa Canals.		Sone Canals.		Orissa Coast Canal.	
	Average for the triennium ending with March 1917.	For the year 1917-18.	Average for the triennium ending with March 1917.	For the year 1917-18.	Average for the triennium ending with March 1917.*	For the year 1917-18.†
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Length of canal open ...	204¾	204¾	218½	218½	...	95½
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts	70,476	72,036	18,366	22,648	...	6,374
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Tonnage of boats by canal measurements.	399,784	451,329	45,651	60,721	...	35,070
Estimated weight of cargo exclusive of rafts.	134,084	164,714	15,260	19,154	...	13,380
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Estimated value of goods.	3,04,44,738	1,05,29,326	9,37,104	12,63,904	...	7,11,103
Estimated value of rafts.	372,788	2,71,562	3,34,567	3,54,230	...	17,418

*Triennial average in column 6 not struck as the figures in the Accounts for 1914-15 relate to the whole length of the Canal lying in the two Provinces—Bengal, Bihar and Orissa—while those for 1915-16 and 1916-17 relate only to that portion of the Canal which lies in this Province.

†For 95½ miles only lying in the province of Bihar and Orissa.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Classification of Irrigation and Navigation Works.

346. The classification of works is as follows:—

(I) Major Works and (II) Minor Works and Navigation.

I. Major Works.—The works comprised in this class are the Orissa, Sone, Tribeni and Dhaka canals.

(*a*) *Productive Works.*—The Orissa and Sone canals are "Productive Works" of a remunerative character, undertaken for the improvement of the country. Their original cost of construction was met wholly from funds under the Imperial head "49". Further capital outlay is now being charged to the divided head "43—Minor Works and Navigation". These two canals were constructed both for irrigation and navigation.

(*b*) *Protective Irrigation Works.*—The Tribeni and Dhaka canals are Protective Irrigation Works constructed as a protection against famine, from funds under the Imperial head "35". The Tribeni canal is almost complete. Village channels and one distributary remain to be completed. Both the Tribeni and Dhaka canals are open to provide irrigation. Their revenue account is shown under the divided head "42".

II. Minor Works and Navigation—

(*a*) Saran Canals.—These canals were intended for irrigation only but have remained practically closed since 1894. The question whether they should be abandoned has not yet been determined.

(*b*) Orissa Coast Canals.—The length of the canal within this province is 95½ miles. It is meant for navigation only.

(*c*) The Teur (Madhuban) canal in the Champaran district is a small work intended for irrigation only.

The transactions of the year for each of the above works are briefly stated in the following summary:—

ORISSA CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works (Productive).

Orissa Canals.

Capital Account.

347. The expenditure, direct charges, debited to the capital account of the Orissa Canals during the year was only Rs. 289. The total capital outlay for direct charges to the end of the year stood at Rs. 2,64,61,804.

Works in progress.

348. The work taken in hand last year of replacing the front shutters in one of the bays of the Bura weir by Marchant's pattern improved adjustable shutters of the French type, was completed. No other work was in progress under this head. The question of remodelling the Baitarani weir has been dropped for the present as a scheme for irrigation by a new canal taking off from a point higher up the river is being investigated, and the height of the weir crest will depend on the feasibility of the new proposed canal.

Length of Distributaries.

349. During the year under report there was an addition of only $\frac{5}{8}$th mile of minor distributaries.

Rainfall.

350. The average rainfall at the thirteen recording stations on the Orissa Canals was 74·01 against 66·79 inches in 1916-17 and 65·30 inches in 1915-16. The rainfall of the year was plentiful and well distributed throughout the year except in October. The paddy crop was good but the abnormally heavy rains during October did considerable damage to the *rabi* crop.

Irrigation.

351. The area irrigated during the year was 271,576 acres against 278,065 acres of 1916-17. The amount assessed for water-rates during the year was Rs. 4,52,096 against Rs. 4,60,707 of the previous year. Less than

0·3 per cent of the demand remained uncollected at the end of the year. The decrease in demand and collection of the year in comparison with the preceding year's figures, is explained by the favourable rainfall.

352. The receipts from navigation tolls on the Orissa canals were Rs. 72,036 against Rs. 72,268 in the previous year and an average of Rs. 70,075 for the preceding five years. **Navigation Receipts.**

353. The revenue and working expenses, direct and indirect, during the year were Rs. 5,80,779 and Rs. 4,92,800 respectively against Rs. 5,79,442 and Rs. 5,11,584 of the previous year, the result being a net revenue of Rs. 87,979 against Rs. 67,858 of the preceding year. **Financial Results.**

354. The following closures were made for annual repairs:— **Closure of Canals.**

Name of Canal.	From	To
Taldanda Canal ...	15th April 1917	... 11th May 1917.
Machgaon „ ...	15th April 1917	... 17th May 1917.
Kendrapara „ ...	16th May 1917	... 15th June 1917.
Do. Extension ...		
Gobri Canal		
Do. Extension ...		
Pattamundi Canal ...		
High Level Canal, Range I	1st May 1917	... 3rd June 1917.
Do. Range II	15th April 1917	... 10th June 1917.
Do. Range III	15th April 1917	... 3rd June 1917.
Jajpur Canal	1st May 1917	... 4th June 1917.

There were no severe storms or high floods during the year.

Minor Works Navigation.

355. The Orissa Coast canal was maintained in fair order and was open to traffic throughout the year. Some shoals were formed in Ranges IVA and IVB. These were removed by dredging. A portion of Range V was also dredged during the year. But the progress of silt clearance on Range V, for which an estimate amounting to Rs. 13,264 was sanctioned was somewhat slow for want of coal. **Orissa Coast Canal.**

The gross receipts and working expenses, direct and indirect, were Rs. 7,351 and Rs. 30,195 against Rs. 5,681 and Rs. 33,726 respectively of the previous year.

SONE CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works (Productive).

Sone Canals.

356. The following works chargeable to the capital account of the Sone canals under the head "43—Minor Works and Navigation" were in progress during the year:— **Capital Account.**

(*a*) A syphon on the Khargarh distributary. The work was almost completed.

(*b*) Thirteen permanent outlets in the Chausa branch canal.

The total capital outlay, direct charges, up to end of 1917-18 was Rs. 2,59,59,011 of which Rs. 7,628 represents the expenditure of the year.

357. The total length of distributaries was 1,234¾ miles against 1,236⅓ miles of the preceding year. The decrease is due to the abandonment of a part of the Patna distributary in order to improve sanitary conditions in the neighbourhood of the new Capital at Patna. **Length of Distributaries.**

Rainfall.

358. The average rainfall of the 12 stations in the three divisions was 46·38 inches compared with the averages of 47·49 inches and 37·21 inches in 1916-17 and 1915-16 respectively and the average of 42·03 of the previous 20 years. The rainfall was above the average, evenly distributed and continued to a later date than usual; the area irrigated under *rabi* crops was consequently much reduced.

Irrigation.

359. The area irrigated during the year was 526,492 acres against 535,698 acres in the preceding year.

The demand for water rates falling due during the year amounted to Rs. 18,02,869 against Rs. 17,72,639 of the preceding year. The increase is due to the fact that the long-term leases renewed during the year were charged at the enhanced rates sanctioned with effect from 26th March 1915. The amount assessed was collected practically in full.

Navigation Receipts.

360. The navigation receipts during the year were Rs. 22,648 against Rs. 17,068 of the previous year and an average of Rs. 20,660 for the previous five years. The returns of 1917-18 were a great improvement over those of the two previous years. Owing to the restriction in railway service, there was heavier boat traffic; the number of bamboo *balla* rafts also was unusually high.

Financial Results.

361. The gross receipts and working expenses, direct and indirect, were respectively Rs. 19,10,400 and Rs. 8,31,516 against Rs. 18,74,156 and Rs. 7,66,849 of the previous year, resulting in a net gain of Rs. 10,78,884 to Government.

Floods.

362. There were four floods in the river Sone during the year and the canals were closed on each occasion. The gauge reading at Barun on the 2nd August was the highest ever recorded, being 344·50 against a previous record of 343·70 in Juty 1910. The flood lasted an unusually long time. The canals were kept closed as long as possible but the demand for water could no longer be denied and they had to be opened at a high river level with the inevitable result of an increase in silt deposit. The record flood topped the bank of the Patna Canal in mile 50 but did no damage and the bank has since been raised.

Flushing Operations.

363. In the Eastern main canal five flushes were run. The September and October flushes which might have done some good were stopped on account of the disturbances in the district as it was desirable to keep the country as dry as possible. The maximum discharge passed down was 2,178 cusecs. The total quantity of silt moved down was 5½ lakhs cubic feet against 8 lakhs deposited.

The Western main canal was flushed three times during the season. The maximum discharge passed down was 4,376 cusecs on 24th October 1917. The third flush which lasted from 11th October to 30th November moved over six lakhs cubic feet of silt.

GANDAK CIRCLE.

PROTECTIVE IRRIGATION WORKS.

Tribeni Canal.

Capital Account.

364. The expenditure, direct charges, debited to the capital account of the Tribeni canal during the year was Rs. 1,01,061 on works included in the schedule of incomplete works and on additional works chargeable to the open capital account.

The capital outlay for direct and indirect charges to the end of the year stood at Rs. 76,19,033.

Works completed or in progress.

365. The following works were in progress during the year:—

(*a*) The new Khunti Nala syphon, (*b*) Deolia distributary, (*c*) a new syphon at 172 chains of Hardinadwa distributary.

Materials were also collected for the proposed Pandai and Bhora syphons.

366. All the distributaries have been completed except the Rangi distributary at the tail end of the canal. Materials were collected and arrangements for starting the work made. Distributaries and village channels.

Surveys for village channels which were in progress last year were completed. Projects were under preparation.

367. The rainfall was good at the beginning of the irrigation season but towards the end it was insufficient for ordinary requirements, hence the demand for canal water increased and more than double the area of the previous year was leased out. The total rainfall recorded was 75·26 inches at Ramnagar and 55·24 at Maniari against 79·62 and 80·01 respectively in 1916-17. Rainfall.

368. The floods in the river Gandak were moderate. On the 24th July 1917, the river rose to 968·80 which was less by 1·20 than the flood level of the previous year and 9·15 lower than the highest recorded flood of 1902. The general condition of the supply in the river was good throughout the year. The canal was opened for irrigation on the 26th June 1917. Floods.

369. The total area irrigated was 58,801 acres against 28,107 acres in the previous year and an average of 52,778 acres of preceding three years. Irrigation.

370. The total working expenses, direct and indirect charges, amounted to Rs. 2,81,216 against the gross revenue of Rs. 1,15,415. The net loss to Government was Rs. 1,65,801 against the deficit of Rs. 2,08,381 of the preceding year. The revenue establishment maintained under the Collector at the cost of the Public Works department collected the water-rates as usual; 6·41 per cent of the demand remained uncollected at the end of the year. Financial results.

371. A rough project for the extension of the Tribeni canal from the Telauhi to Teur was prepared in order to ascertain to what point the canal could profitably be extended. Tribeni extension scheme.

Dhaka Canal.

372. There was no capital outlay on the canal during the year. Rs. 1,022 was spent on constructing a drainage syphon at 8 miles 10 chains of the Siraha Branch. Capital Account.

373. The total rainfall of the year was only 47·62 inches against 78·52 inches in the preceding year. Rainfall

374. The total area irrigated during the year was 7,170 acres against 3,363 acres of the preceding year. The demand for canal water was high by the latter part of the season owing to insufficient rainfall. The supply of the river was sufficient to meet the demand. Irrigation.

375. The gross revenue derived from the canal amounted to Rs. 15,516 against Rs. 8,584 of the preceding year, while the total working expenses, direct and indirect, amounted to Rs. 29,145 against Rs. 16,726 of the preceding year. So the net deficit during the year under review was Rs. 13,629 against the deficit of Rs. 8,142 in the preceding year. The increase in the working expenses during the year was mainly due to the fact that extensive repairs had to be done to the head sluice. Financial Results.

MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

Works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept.

376. The canals, 19*miles in length, have remained practically closed since 1894. The question of abandoning them altogether has not yet been settled. The cost of maintaining the Canals amounted to Rs. 310(excluding the cost of establishment). The gross receipts amounted to Rs. 1,000 against Rs. 800 in the preceding year. The Saran Canals.

* 24·05 miles including minor channels.

Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.

The Teur (Madhuban) Canal.

377. This small canal is only 6·18 miles long with a distributary 6·13 miles in length. The canal was in good order and repairs cost Rs. 2,229 (excluding the cost of establishment). No original works were carried out during the year.

The rainfall of the year was 47·91 only against 71·41 inches in the preceding year. The demand for canal water increased at the latter part of the season when rain failed. The total area irrigated was 1,727 acres inclusive of 253 acres of Madhuban Babu's *Zirat* lands and the total receipts amounted to Rs. 3,089 against Rs. 2,865 of the preceding year.

Future schemes.

378. Investigation proved the proposed irrigation scheme from the Kiul river in the Monghyr district to be too expensive and it has been dropped. Surveys were undertaken to test the possibilities of irrigation from storage reservoirs in the government estates of the Singhbhum district.

EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE.

[The Embankment and Drainage report for the year 1917-18.]

Classification of Embankments.

379. There are four classes of embankments in this province, namely :—

(*a*) Embankments in Orissa, maintained at the expense of Government.

(*b*) Schedule D and other embankments (excluding those in Orissa), maintained at the expense of Government.

(*c*) Embankments not government property but maintained by Government under the contract system.

(*d*) Embankments not government property but maintained by government officers as public embankments under the provisions of sections 47—58 of Act II (B. C.) of 1882.

Expenditure.

380. The total expenditure on works and repairs in connection with these embankments amounted to Rs. 89,784* against Rs. 85,845 in the preceding year.

* Excluding Rs. 21,975 on works and repairs in connection with the Bankipore-Dinapore Road, Schedule D Embankments.

Length of Embankments.

381. The total length of embankments of all classes maintained by Government in the province was 821† miles 978 feet protecting an area of 7,501·41 square miles. An actual survey of the Gandak embankments proved the length to be somewhat short of that shown last year.

† Exclusive of 4 miles 606 feet of Bankipore-Dinapore Road, Schedule D Embankments.

Floods.

382. During the year high floods in the Orissa rivers occurred only in the Mahanadi, the Katjuri, some rivers in the Puri district and the Bara Bolong. Some damage was caused to crops in certain tracts of the Puri district by breaches and by cuts made by villagers in some embankments.

The flood in the Ganges at Bankipore was the highest on record and the Bankipore-Dinapore road embankment stood well against it. There was some erosion on the right bank of the Panar river in the Purnea district which slightly damaged the spurs. There were no very high floods against the Madhipura and Bhagalpur road embankments.

In the Gandak circle the floods did not exceed the average. The flood level of the river Gandak near the railway bridge at Hajipur and of the Ganges at Chakaur in the 9th mile of the Gupta Bandh however rose above the highest flood level previously recorded at these stations. The gauge at the former place rose to 166·30 and at the latter place to 140·13 against 166·20 and 139·83, the previous maxima.

Breaches.

383. Several breaches occurred in the Sunamuhi, Nayanadi, Bhargovi, Kharsua No. 7(*a*), class B embankments, in the Orissa circle. The approximate area flooded was 73 square miles. The Patna embankment No. 66B, the Daib

right embankment No. 2B and Chitratola embankment No. 55(*g*) and (*h*) were all breached in one place each. No damage was done to crops. Due steps were taken to close the breaches.

There were no breaches on any of the embankments in the Gandak circle.

The river Gandak eroded its left bank in 24th and 25th miles of the Tirhut embankment to the extent of about $\frac{3}{4}$th mile in length and 10 to 25 feet in width but timely precautions stopped further cutting. Spurs which were placed to protect the scourings have so far proved effective.

The old breaches in the Gupta Bandh were further widened with the result that a total length of 4,601 feet was washed away. No steps were taken to prevent further cutting since the portion below 10th mile has been practically abandoned and the project of a retired line from this mile stone is under preparation. Flood water rushing through these breaches inundated about 50 square miles of land in the Begusarai subdivision causing damage to standing crops. There was however no loss of life or cattle. A proposal to construct a retired line to save Begusarai from flood has been approved by the Embankment Committee and the survey which began after the close of the year under report is now in progress.

During the floods of 1916 the Champaran embankment was seriously threatened near Dubaulia between the 72nd and 73rd miles but with the fall of the river erosion ceased. In November 1917 the cutting recommenced and orders were issued for the erection of two spurs which were in progress when the year closed.

A side stream of the river running along the old Surajpura bandh, now no longer maintained, attacked the old bandh opposite the 29th mile of the Champaran embankment but a breach was prevented by floating tree spurs.

384. Detailed surveys were in progress during the year in connection with the proposed drainage channel from Paradia sluice in the Nayanadi to Satpara in the Puri district. The work was taken up very late in the year owing to difficulty in procuring a surveyor. **Surveys and investigation.**

In the Gandak circle no survey for any new line was made during the year under review. The levels of crests, floors of sluices and bench marks of the Saran embankment were checked. Discharge observations of the Bur-Gandak river at Khagaria during the flood season to ascertain what volume of water passes through the railway bridge were taken up at the cost of the District Board, Monghyr, but as there was no heavy flood no conclusions on the adequacy or otherwise of the bridge opening could be reached.

385. Expenditure on original works in Orissa circle amounted to Rs. 9,384 against Rs. 2,237 of the preceding year. **Original works.**

The principal works carried out were (1) raising the crest of the Utikan embankment, (2) closing Panu Panda and Kali Misra Ghais, (3) constructing an embankment connecting the embankment Nos. 6 and 7 (*a*) class B on the left bank of the Kharsua river.

No original works were carried out on any of the embankments during the year in the Gandak Circle.

386. The total amount expended on repairs was Rs. 80,400 against Rs. 83,402 in the preceding year ; of this, the sum of Rs. 29,704 was spent in the Orissa circle, Rs. 45,858 in the Gandak circle and Rs. 4,838 in the Eastern Circle. **Repairs.**

The amount spent on ordinary maintenance and special repairs of the Gandak Takavi embankment under contract was Rs. 35,017 against Rs. 33,896 in the preceding year. No new retired lines were constructed on any of the embankments.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Drainage.

387. In the Gandak circle the 12-vent sluice at Deosar in the 3rd mile of the Tirhut embankment to drain off the Sarothar chaur which was in progress from 1915-16 was completed at a total cost of Rs. 11,372.

A proposal to construct two small sluices on both the banks of the Lahladpur channel at 33rd mile of the Tirhut embankment for draining off water from the low lands of the adjacent villages was sanctioned during the year at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,654. The work was completed at an outlay of Rs. 1,350.

The construction of an embankment and a sluice to prevent flood water entering the Pembranda chaur in the district of Darbhanga approached completion.

There are no drainage works in this province constructed under the Bengal Drainage, Sanitary Drainage or Embankment Act, excepting a small scheme known as the Rajmahal drainage scheme completed in 1902 and maintained by the civil officers under the Bengal Drainage Act, VI of 1880.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Imperial Revenue and Finance.

388. The following statement shows the Imperial revenue and expenditure for the year 1917-18 compared with the figures for 1916-17 :— **Imperial Receipts and Expenditure.**

RECEIPTS.

[Figures are in thousands of rupees.]

Major heads.	Actuals, 1916-17.	Actuals 1917-18.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I. Land Revenue	76,41	72,42	...	3,99
II. Opium	4,49	4,71	22	...
III. Salt	...	...	...	...
IV. Stamps	36,61	37,40	79	...
V. Excise	28,07	29,56	1,49	...
VII. Customs	1	1	...	...
VIII. Income-tax	10 11	13,10	2,99	...
XI. Tributes	86	85	...	1
XII. Interests		2	...	...
XXII. Receipts in aid of superannuation ...	74	80	6	...
XXV. Miscellaneous	8	5	...	3
XXIX. Irrigation, Major Works.—Public Works Department.	12,65	13,13	48	...
XXX. Irrigation, Minor Works—				
Civil	27	27	...	...
Public Works Department ...	8	11	3	...
XXXI. Civil Works	48	65	17	...
Transfer from Imperial to Provincial Revenues ...	—46,79	—46,18	61	...
Total ...	1,24,09	1,26,90	6,84	4,03

EXPENDITURE.

[Figures are in thousands of rupees.]

Major heads.	1916-17.	1917-18.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Refund and drawbacks	50	42	...	8
2.—Assignments and Compensation ...	52	55	3	...
3.—Land Revenue	9,16	8,57	...	59
5.—Salt	76	77	1	...
6.—Stamps	96	1,05	9	...
7.—Excise	1,45	1,47	2	...
9.—Customs	15	15	...	...
10.—Income-tax	23	23	...	...
14.—Interest on other obligations	1,08	1,40	32	...
18.—General Administration	2,79	2,74	...	5
23.—Ecclesiastical	34	39	5	...
27.—Territorial and Political pensions ...	47	74	27	...
28.—Civil Furlough and Absentee allowances ...	5	3	...	2
29.—Superannuation allowances and pensions ...	3	3	...	...
30.—Stationery and Printing	6	9	3	...
32.—Miscellaneous	46	44	...	2
33.—Famine Relief	2,02	14	...	1,88
35.—Construction of Protective Irrigation Works	1,02	1,07	5	...
42.—Irrigation—Major Works (working expenses)	7,26	7,61	35	...
42.—Irrigation—Interest on Debt	11,34	11,98	64	...
43.—Major Works and Navigation—				
(1) By Civil Department ...	2	2	...	...
(2) By Public Works Department ...	1,22	92	...	30
45.—Civil Works—Public Works Department ...	1,69	2,46	77	...
49.—Outlay on Irrigation Works	—2	—1	...	—1
Total ...	43,56	43,26	2,63	2,93

Receipts.—There was a net increase of 2,81 compared with the actuals for 1916-17 owing to considerably larger receipts under stamps, excise and income-tax and smaller contributions from imperial to provincial. The improvement under excise was due to an increase in the license fee demand and that under income-tax was on account of the enhanced rates of taxation and the super-tax. The marked decrease under Land Revenue was in consequence of the Holi and Easter holidays falling in the last days of March, with the result that many payments on account of the last *kist* were not collected till April.

Expenditure.—There was a net decrease of 30 in expenditure compared with 1916-17. This was chiefly under land revenue and famine relief which was partly balanced by an increase under civil works and irigation—interest on debt. The decrease under land revenue was due to a restricted expenditure on survey and settlement. The expenditure under "33—Famine Relief" is now shared between imperial and provincial revenues in the proportion of 3 to 1 and the shorter expenditure in 1917-18 was due to the fact that while there was famine in Singhbhum in 1916-17, no fresh famine or scarcity occurred in 1917-18. The large increase under civil works was due to increased expenditure on original works.

Land Revenue.

[*See* Chapter II of the Report.]

Canal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of the Report—Canals.]

Sources of Revenue other than land.

Customs.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bihar and Orissa for the year 1917-18.]

389. The revenue realized during the year amounted to Rs. 1,262 against Rs. 8,086 in 1916-17 and Rs. 35,840 in 1915-16. The figures for the previous years included the duty realized and credited in Calcutta on salt imported under bond into the warehouses at Chandbali. In the year under review there were no transactions of this kind. **Customs Revenue.**

No refunds were granted.

390. In Balasore there were eight prosecutions for plying boats without a licence against two in the preceding year. A sum of Rs. 50 was realized in fines. **Breach of Customs laws.**

391. No proceedings were taken under the Act in any of the districts of the province during the year under review. **Indian Merchandise Marks Act.**

Salt.

392. During the year under review there was no import of salt into either of the bonded warehouses at Chandbali from the salt *golas* at Calcutta. Owing to the absence of vessels salt was imported by rail from Calcutta. **Imports.**

393. The quantity of salt consumed in Cuttack, Balasore, Angul and Puri and in the Feudatory States which take their supplies of salt from these districts was 103,299 maunds against 1,163,528, in the previous year. The average consumption per head was lower by 7 chitaks than in 1916-17. Duty-paid salt imported from Calcutta sold at Balasore at Rs. 9-4-0 per bag of two maunds against Rs. 7-12-0 in the preceding year. **Consumption and prices.**

394. The total number of offences against the salt laws reported during 1917-18 was 323 against 451 in the previous year. All the reported cases related to the districts of Cuttack and Balasore. The absence of cases in the district of Puri is reported to be due to the good outturn of the crops and the stoppage of **Preventive measures.**

their export to other countries owing to the restrictions on railway traffic. On account of the scarcity and high price of salt Government issued orders discouraging the prosecution of persons for petty offences against the salt law and to these orders is attributed the decrease in offences in Cuttack and Balasore.

Out of a total of 323 cases reported, 77 remained undetected. In 84 cases the accused were dealt with departmentally and warned. Of the 173 cases tried including 11 pending from the previous year, 154 ended in conviction and 19 in acquittal.

Two Head-Constables were deputed to accompany patrol parties and attend house-searches in accordance with the provisions of section 18 of the Salt Act.

Trade in saltpetre.

395. The number of saltpetre refineries in Bihar was 244 against 227 in the previous year. The quantity of crude saltpetre dissolved was 353,867 maunds and that of refined saltpetre produced was 240,607 maunds, against 366,972 maunds and 247,217 maunds, respectively, in the previous year. The quantity of salt educed in the manufacture and refinement of saltpetre was 34,337 maunds out of which 30,298 maunds were removed on payment of duty against 25,693 maunds in 1916-17.

Lack of shipping caused a large decrease in the quantity of foreign salt imported which resulted in a serious shortage of salt in India and a heavy rise in prices. This rise in prices was accentuated by the operations of profiteers who combined to force the price up to an artificial rate. Salt is a necessity of life to the whole population and the situation became so serious that Government was obliged to intervene and establish a system by which the supply of salt to each district was controlled by the District Board and other local bodies under the supervision of the District Officer. Priority was given to the indents for salt of the local bodies and the salt was sold from municipal shops and through the agency of recognized retailers who undertook to sell at fixed rates. At the same time measures were taken by the Northern India Salt Revenue Department to increase the outturn of salt in India as far as possible. These measures were largely successful in stopping profiteering and reducing the price of salt.

Excise.

[Report on the administration of the Excise Department, Bihar and Orissa, for 1917-18.]

Administrative changes.

396. The principal administrative changes which took place during the year were :—

(1) Introduction of the contract supply system to a small area comprising the town of Sakchi in the district of Singhbhum with effect from 1st November 1917 ;

(2) Revision of the maximum prices for the retail sale of country-spirit in the districts of Patna, Shahabad, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr and Manbhum ;

(3) Fixing of a minimum price for the retail sale of country-spirit of strength 70° U. P. for all shops within the Ranchi Municipality;

(4) Framing of rules for the recruitment of Superintendents, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Excise and Salt;

(5) Formation of a separate Advisory Committee for the mining area in the Dhanbad subdivision of the Manbhum district;

(6) Remission of duty on locally-manufactured rectified spirit used for industrial purposes under certain conditions ;

(7) and the taking over of the lease of French Balasore by the Government of India from the late lessee with effect from the 1st April 1917 on payment of compensation and the stoppage from that date of all distillation in that tract, the people now taking their supply of liquor, opium and *ganja* from shops in British territory.

397. In addition to the reforms introduced during the year 1916-17, further effect to the scheme for the reorganization of the Excise and Salt Department was given from the 1st March 1918 by raising the minimum pay of Sub-Inspectors of Excise and Salt from Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 and that of the petty officers from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12. **Staff and organization.**

398. The Bihar and Orissa Excise Act (Act II of 1915) continued to be in force, but the statutory rules were those framed under the old Bengal Act (V of 1909) which have been made applicable by specific provision in section 98 (1) of the new Act. Revised rules were under preparation. **Legislation.**

399. Advisory Committees were convened twice during the year for all municipal towns (except Revelganj in the district of Saran, where no meeting was held in July 1917) and for the rural areas of the Chota Nagpur Division. The following were among the most important subjects discussed at the meetings of July 1917 :— **Local Advisory Committees.**

(i) Co-operation of Municipal Commissioners in making inquiries into, and detections of, cocaine and opium cases.

(ii) Empowering Honorary Magistrates to make inquiries about smuggling of cocaine and opium and furnish a list to Collector yearly.

(iii) Closure of liquor shops in Municipal towns at 7 p.m. in the cold weather and at 8 p.m. in the hot weather.

(iv) Prohibition of drinking of *tari* on the premises of shops.

(v) Fixing of retail prices of *ganja, bhang* and opium.

(vi) Appointment of preachers to preach the cause of temperance and payment to them of remuneration from the excise revenue.

(vii) Temperance teaching in schools.

(viii) Reduction in the limit of retail sale of *pachwai* in Singhbhum.

(ix) Survey of the drinking population in each village.

In the district of Manbhum, the Jharia Mines Board of Health was constituted into a separate Advisory Committee for the mining area of the Dhanbad subdivision, to consider subjects peculiar to the colliery area only.

Committees were again formed in December 1917, both for municipalities throughout the province and for the rural areas of the Chota Nagpur division to advise on the settlement proposals for 1918-19 and in deference to their recommendations three *tari* shops, two country liquor shops and four outstills were abolished, the sites of nine *tari* shops, twenty country liquor shops, seven *pachwai* shops and four outstills were changed, twelve *pachwai* shops were opened and three country spirit shops were screened from public view.

400. The settlement produced a total increase of over 2 lakhs of rupees, the result chiefly of better agricultural conditions. **Results of Settlements.**

401. The total excise revenue of the year amounted to a little over 118 lakhs of rupees, an increase of about Rs. 6 lakhs. The increase was shared by every head except *ganja, bhang* and miscellaneous. Country-spirit, opium and *tari* accounted for 49·6 per cent, 14·6 per cent and 12·6 per cent of the total revenue. The incidence of excise revenue was five and a half annas against five annas and two pies in the preceding year. **Revenue.**

402. The total revenue under the contract supply system amounted to Rs. 46,40,062, against Rs. 41,31,854, while the revenue from outstills amounted to Rs. 12,23,993 against Rs. 11,38,870 in the previous year. There was an increase in consumption amounting to 84,256 gallons or 8·5 per cent. **Country-spirit.**

The number of licenses for the retail sale of country spirit (contract and outstill) was reduced from 1,941 in 1916-17 to 1,904 in 1917-18.

Revision of rates of duty.

403. There was no revision of the rates of duty on country-spirit in any of the districts

Tari.

404. The revenue derived from *tari* amounted to Rs. 14,94,311 against Rs. 14,36,161 in 1916-17. The total number of licences for the retail sale of fermented *tari* was 5,873 as against 6,022 in 1916-17.

Pachwai.

405. Licence fees for the retail sale and home-brewing of *pachwai* brought in Rs. 1,55,767 in 1917-18 against Rs. 1,38,229 in 1916-17. The total number of licences issued for retail sale of *pachwai* was Rs. 344 against Rs. 341 in 1916-17.

Foreign liquors.

406. Foreign liquors do not play an important part in the Excise Administration of Bihar and Orissa. The Revenue derived from licence fees in 1917-18 amounted to Rs. 37,065 as against Rs. 34,195 in 1916-17.

Ganja.

407. There was a decrease of 273 maunds in the quantity of *ganja* accompanied by a decrease in the revenue from Rs. 26,26,661 to Rs. 24,64,883, which is chiefly due to an unprecedented rise in the price of the drug in Rajshahi on account of the partial failure of the crop.

The number of licenses for the retail sale of *ganja* issued during the year was 1,249 as against 1,251 in 1916-17.

Bhang.

408. The total consumption of *bhang* in the province rose from 433 maunds in 1916-17 to 456 maunds during the year under report and the revenue from duty and licence fees amounted to Rs. 53,391 against Rs. 54,702. The number of licences issued for the retail sale of *bhang* was 284 against 277 in 1916-17.

Charas.

409. The revenue from *charas* was Rs. 204 against Rs. 192 in the preceding year.

Opium.

410. The total quantity of opium consumed within the province was 850 maunds against 840 maunds in the preceding year.

The revenue amounted to Rs. 17,28,463 or Rs. 91,012 more than in the previous year.

The total number of licences issued for the retail sale of opium was 548 against 549 in 1916-17.

Cocaine.

411. The number of persons convicted of illicit sale or possession of cocaine was 35 against 32 in 1916-17. The vigilant watch kept over suspects by the Excise officers and particularly the reduction in the supply of the drug on account of the war prevented the cocaine habit from spreading. The total quantity of cocaine seized was 1 pound 13 ounces 9 drams 19·1 grains of which all but 2 ounces 4 drams 13·1 grains was found pure.

Excise offences.

412. 1,730 persons were prosecuted for offences against the Excise and Opium Acts against 1,589 in the preceding year. Excise officers detected fewer cases than in 1916-17 in Patna (68 cases against 76), Gaya (28 cases against 48), Bhagalpur (26 cases against 38), Balasore (48 cases against 82), Puri (19 cases against 35), Ranchi (120 cases against 182), and Palamau (6 cases against 10). The total number of persons convicted was 1,498 against 1,386 in the preceding year. The percentage of convictions to arrests was 86·5 against 87 in 1916-17. The number of persons imprisoned for offences against the Excise and Opium Acts was 523 against 295. There was an increase of Rs. 2,635 in the amount of the fines imposed.

Stamps.

Revenue.

413. The revenue under the Stamp and Court-Fees Acts amounted to Rs. 74,23,480 against Rs. 72,51,628 in the preceding year. The increase was under "Judicial stamps". Under "Non-judicial stamps" there was a decrease of Rs. 44,810.

414. The increase of Rs. 2,16,662 under Judicial stamps was common to all the divisions but was most marked in the Tirhut and Patna divisions where it amounted to Rs. 1,43,070 and Rs. 45,505, respectively. The districts of Saran, Champaran and Muzaffarpur contributed towards the striking increase in the former division which was reported to be due to an increase of suits on account of the revisional survey and settlement operations and partly to the disturbed agrarian conditions in Champaran. The increase in the district of Patna (Rs. 60,477) was due to the institution of a larger number of appeals in the High Court, while the rise of receipts by Rs. 4,451 in Shahabad was ascribed to the large number of copies issued in connection with the cases tried by the Special Tribunals and also to the increase in the number and value of suits instituted. **Judicial stamps.**

415. The decrease of Rs. 44,810 in the income from the sale of non-judicial stamps occurred mainly in the districts of Bhagalpur and Darbhanga and in the Orissa division. The decrease was due to the low price of food-stuffs and the restriction of export traffic by rail. **Non-judicial stamps.**

416. The number of stamp vendors was reduced from 1,268 to 1,155. There was, however, an increase of Rs. 76 in the discount allowed to vendors. **Sale of stamps.**

The cases in which civil courts levied deficit duty and penalty numbered 1,192 against 1,160 in the preceding year with an increase of Rs. 2,134 in the amount of duty and penalty. The number of cases decided by revenue officers increased by 26 and there was an increase of Rs. 740 in the duty and penalty realized.

417. The number of prosecutions instituted rose from one in 1916-17 to 67 in 1917-18. The largest increase both in the number of cases instituted and in the amount of fines imposed, occurred in the district of Muzaffarpur. There were no prosecutions in any of the districts of the Patna and Chota Nagpur Divisions. Of the 80 persons brought to trial 75 were convicted, the fines imposed amounting to Rs. 406. **Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.**

418. The number of cases in which inquiries were instituted rose from 114 to 136 while the number of inquiries completed during the year fell from 112 to 98 with a corresponding fall in the amount of deficit duty from Rs. 9,454 to Rs. 8,051. **Working of section 19-H of the Court-Fees Act.**

Income-tax.

419. The receipts, charges and net revenue of the year were Rs. 22,30,289, Rs. 47,380 and Rs. 21,82,909, respectively. The net revenue showed an increase of Rs. 2,08,946 or 10·5 per cent compared with the year 1916-17. To this increase the expanding profits of the large industrial concerns and collieries in the province have not contributed, as almost all of them pay their income-tax in other provinces. **Financial results.**

420. The total collections showed an increase of Rs. 1,77,934 or nearly 9 per cent over the collections of the preceding year. The increase was shared by all the districts, except Gaya, Purnea, Puri, Hazaribagh and Ranchi. **Collections.**

421. The final number of assessees for 1917-18 increased by 801 or 4·1 per cent over the figures for the preceding year and the final demand rose from Rs. 17,24,136 to Rs. 18,84,649. The increase was largest in Manbhum (Rs. 36,679), Saran (Rs. 33,107), Champaran (Rs. 25,854), Bhagalpur (Rs. 22,733) and the Santal Parganas (Rs. 18,909). The number of assessees under part IV, class I, paying on an income of more than Rs. 1,000 and less than Rs. 1,250 rose from 5,851 to 5,868. The percentage of collection on the final demand was 96·6 as against 96·5 in the previous year. The prescribed standard of 95 per cent was reached in all the districts, except Shahabad (90·8), Muzaffarpur (87·8), Monghyr (93·8), Santal Parganas (91·7) and Palamau (93·7). **Assessment.**

Super-tax.

422. The Super-tax Act, 1917 (VIII of 1917), came into force on the 1st April 1917. Only 31 persons were assessed and the tax realized from them amounted to Rs. 2,03,728.

Forest Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of the Report.]

Provincial Finance.

Receipts and Expenditure.

423. The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on account of Provincial services for 1917-18 compared with those of 1916-17 :—

[Figures are in thousands of rupees.]

Receipts.	Actuals, 1916-17.	Actuals, 1917-18.	Actuals, 1917-18, better (+) or worse (—) than 1916-17.	
1	2	3	4	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Principal Heads of Revenue—				
I.—Land Revenue	88,88	84,54	...	—4,34
IV.—Stamps	36,61	37,40	+79	...
V.—Excise	84,20	88,67	+4,47	...
VI.—Provincial Rates	1,25	78	...	—47
VIII.—Income-tax	10,11	10,83	+72	...
IX.—Forests	5,29	7,54	+2,25	...
X.—Registration	6,81	6,68	...	—13
Total ...	2,33,15	2,36,44	+8,23	—494
XII.—Interest	1,76	1,57	...	—19
Receipts by Civil Departments—				
XVIA.—Law and Justice—Courts ...	3,02	3,67	+65	...
XVIB.—Jails	7,89	7,10	...	—79
XVII.—Police	36	91	+55	...
XIX.—Education	3,56	3,71	+15	...
XXA.—Medical	40	47	+7	...
XXB.—Sanitation	13	17	+4	...
XXIA.—Agriculture	31	34	+3	...
XXIB.—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	2	1	...	—1
Total ...	15,69	16,38	+1,49	—80

Receipts.	Actuals, 1916-17.	Actuals, 1917-18.	Actuals, 1917-18, better (+) and worse (—) than 1916-17.	
1	2	3	4	
Miscellaneous.—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
XXII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation.	40	45	+5	...
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	27	39	+12	...
XXV.—Miscellaneous ...	3,07	3,37	+30	...
Total ...	3,74	4,21	+47	...
Irrigation.—				
XXIX.—Major Works—Direct Receipts— Public Works Department.	12,65	13,13	+48	...
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—				
(*a*) Civil	27	26	...	—1
(*b*) Public Works Department ...	8	11	+3	...
Total ...	13,00	13,50	+51	—1
Public Works—				
XXXI.—Civil Works—				
Civil	1,08	1,05	...	—3
Public Works Department ...	3,29	3,74	+45	...
Total	4,37	4,79	+45	—3
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial Revenues.	46,79	46,18	...	—61
Total Revenue ...	3,18,50	3,23,07	+4,57	...

Expenditure.	Actuals, 1916-17.	Actuals, 1917-18.	Actuals, 1917-18, better (+) or worse (—) than 1916-17.	
1	2	3	4	
Direct demands on the Revenue—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Refunds and drawbacks ...	58	47	+11	...
2.—Assignments and compensations	50	51	...	—1
Total ...	1,08	93	+11	—1

Expenditure.	Actuals, 1916-17.	Actuals, 1917-18.	Actuals, 1917-18, better (+) and worse (—) than 1916-17.	
1	2	3	4	
Charges in respect of collections—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
3.—Land Revenue	22,98	23,73	...	—75
6.—Stamps	96	1,05	...	—9
7.—Excise	4,36	4,40	...	—4
8.—Provincial Rates	...	...	...	...
10.—Income-tax	23	23	...	...
11.—Forests	4,48	3,91	+57	...
12.—Registration	3,79	3,77	+2	...
Total ...	36,80	37,09	+59	—88
13.—Interest on ordinary debt ...	1,13	1,13	...	...
Salaries and expenses of Civil Departments—				
18.—General Administration ...	14,14	13,94	+20	...
19A.—Law and Justice—Courts ...	41,02	42,62	...	—1,60
19B.—Law and Justice—Jails ...	14,23	16,08	...	—1,85
20.—Police	46,98	49,24	...	—2,26
21.—Ports and Pilotage ...	6	5	+1	...
22.—Education	36,87	40,32	...	—3,45
24A.—Medical	6,63	7,60	...	—97
24B.—Sanitation	2,55	2,42	+13	...
25.—Political	49	59	...	—10
26A.—Agriculture	4,52	6,01	...	—1,49
26B.—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	29	41	...	—12
Total ...	1,67,78	1,79,28	+34	—11,84
Miscellaneous Civil Charges—				
29.—Superannuation allowances and pensions.	10,08	9,92	+16	...
31.—Stationery and Printing ...	6,60	6,98	...	—38
32.—Miscellaneous	1,35	1,84	...	—49
Total ...	18,03	18,74	+16	—87

Expenditure.	Actuals, 1916-17	Actuals, 1917-18.	Actuals, 1916-17, better (+) and worse (—) than 1916-17.	
1	3	3	4	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Famine Relief Insurance—				
33.—Famine Relief ...	...	5	...	—5
36.—Reduction or avoidance of debt	2,00	...	+2,00	...
Total ...	2,00	5	+2,00	—5
Irrigation—				
42.—Irrigation Major Works—				
(*a*) Working Expenses ...	7,26	7,61	...	—35
(*b*) Interest on debt ...	8,54	9,00	...	—46
43.—Minor Works and Navigation—				
(*a*) Civil	2	2	...	...
(*b*) Public Works Department ...	1,22	92	+30	...
Total ...	17,04	17,55	+30	—81
Other Public Works—				
45.—Civil Works—				
(*a*) Civil	14,25	13,64	+61	...
(*b*) Public Works Department ...	55,49	61,65	...	—6,16
Total ...	69,74	75,29	+61	—6,16
Total Expenditure ...	3,13,60	3,30,11	...	—16,51

Receipts.—There was a net increase of 4,57. The improvement was chiefly under stamps (79), excise (447), income-tax (72), and forests (2,25), courts of law (65), police (55), irrigation (48). The increase under excise was due to increase in the licence fees and to larger consumption owing to good agricultural conditions, that under income-tax was due to an increase in the number of assessees in connection with the High Court, as well as to the enhanced rates of taxation. The larger receipts under forests were owing to the demand for sleepers for military use. The increase under police receipts resulted from recoveries made for additional police quartered in areas responsible for disturbance. The increase under irrigation was mainly due to the enhancement in the water rate in the Sone canals. Noticeable decreases were under land revenue (4,34), jails (79) and transfers between imperial and provincial revenues (61). The decrease under land revenue was due to the *kist* for March 1918 having been collected in April in consequence of certain holidays falling at the end of March. The decrease in jail receipts was due to less recoveries for the sale of jail manufactures and that under transfer between imperial and provincial revenues was caused by increased payments made from provincial to imperial on account of the increased rate of income-tax which is appropriated by the Imperial Government.

Expenditure.—There was a net increase of 16,51. Increases were chiefly under the heads land revenue (75), courts of law (1,60), jails (1,85), police (2,26), education (3,45), agriculture (1,49), and civil works—in charge of public works officers (6,16). The increase under land revenue was due to increased expenditure on settlement operations and that under courts of law to the expenditure incurred during the year in connection with the constitution of special tribunals under the Defence of India Act and to the appointment of an additional Legal Remembrancer for a part of the year. The increase under jails was due to larger expenditure under jail manufactures owing to the rise in the cost of raw materials, that under police was due to large expenditure on temporary additional police owing to the disturbances in Shahabad and Gaya as well as to expenditure incurred in the escorting of the Jail Labour Corps recruited for Mesopotamia. The increase under education was due mainly to expenditure from the recurring grant of 3,25 given by the Government of India in 1917-18 for the improvement of pay and training of teachers, that under agriculture to the expenditure incurred in extending the Sepaya farm. The increase under civil works—in charge of public works officers—was due to larger expenditure on capital works.

Reduction.—The most noticeable reduction was made under the new system of adjusting famine expenditure under which it is no longer necessary to credit to a separate fund a sum of 2,00 annually, the expenditure actually incurred on famine being divided between imperial and provincial revenues in the proportion of 3 to 1.

Local Finance.

Balances.

424. The following table shows the income and expenditure and the opening and closing balances of local funds for the year 1917-18 :—

[Figures are in thousands of rupees.]

Name of fund.	Opening balance on 1st April 1917.	Receipts during the year.	Total.	Expenditure during the year.	Balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	20,65	83,79	1,04,44	81,63	22,81
Union Funds	11	36	47	36	11
District Road Funds ...	3,05	4,13	7,18	3,82	3,36
District Chaukidari Reward Fund.	27	31	58	31	27
Chota Nagpur Chaukidari Fund.	1,15	5,57	6,72	5,10	1,62
Road Patrol Fund ...	25	42	67	43	24
Pilgrim Lodging House Funds	53	59	1,12	65	47
Medical and Charitable Fund	3	18	21	18	3
Education Funds ...	3	4	7	4	3
Town and Bazar Fund ...	...	5	7	7	...

Name of fund.	Opening Balance on 1st April 1917.	Receipts during the year.	Total.	Expenditure during the year.	Balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cantonment Fund ...	7	45	52	35	17
Khondmal Road Fund ...	1	6	7	6	1
Orissa Port Fund ...	...	14	14	9	5
Jharia Water Board ...	11,93	1,24	13,17	2,98	10,19
Jharia Mines Board of Health	30	85	1,15	68	47
Municipal Funds ...	7,15	22,93	30,08	22,36	7,72
Medical Registration ...	...	11	11	5	6
Medical Examination Fund ...	...	14	14	11	3
GRAND TOTAL ...	45,55	1,21,36	1,66,91	1,19,27	47,64

Only two additions were made to the number of Union Funds having banking accounts with treasuries. The Medical Registration and Examination Funds were opened at Ranchi during the year. The resources of the Orissa Port Fund were greatly reduced owing to the war and a regular contribution from provincial revenues has had to be given every year to the Fund to supplement its resources.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year 1917-18.]

425. Local Cess was levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the annual value of lands and the average annual net profits of mines or other immoveable property throughout the province, except in the districts of Angul, Sambalpur and the Damin-i-koh government estate in the Santal Parganas, where the Cess Act is not in force. The Act was extended to the Kolhan government estate in the district of Singhbhum with effect from 1st September 1917, actual payments being enforced from the 1st April 1918. **Rate at which levied.**

426. The gross rental shows a total increase of Rs. 14,73,781. The current cess demand was Rs. 58,50,057 against Rs. 57,29,977 in the previous year. The increase of Rs. 1,20,090 was due mainly to revaluation in Shahabad and Puri and the Barabhum and Patkum Parganas of Manbhum and to the increased profits of mines in Hazaribagh and Manbhum. Actual collections amounted to Rs. 56,21,842 against Rs. 57,26,187 in the previous year, exclusive of remissions amounting to Rs. 12,703. The percentage of total collections on the current demand fell from 100·1 in 1916-17 to 96·09, contributory causes being the failure of the Shahabad and Puri proprietors to pay according to the revised demand and default by the Bettiah Wards and the seven-annas Tikari estates. **Demands and Collections.**

427. The total number of certificates filed for the realization of arrears was 57,352 compared with 46,831 in the preceding year. The cases for disposal were 67,671 against 62,459. Objections numbered 4,381 compared with 4,425. Certificates had to be cancelled in 515 cases, most of which were **Working of the Certificate Procedure.**

in Gaya, Muzaffarpur and Monghyr in the names of defaulters and the demands actually due from them were responsible for the majority of these cases. Demands were paid on the issue of preliminary notices in 14,019 cases. Notices for the sale of moveable and immoveable properties induced payments in 25,018 and 5,529 cases, respectively. Out of 690 cases in which property was actually sold, sales were subsequently set aside mainly on redemption in 350 cases in the Chota Nagpur division; warrants of attachment and warrants for arrest of judgment-debtors proved effective in 16 and 102 cases respectively.

Valuations and Revaluations.

428. General revaluation operations were completed in the district of Puri resulting in an addition of Rs. 29,516 to the demand. The first valuation of the Kolhan government estate in Singhbhum was in progress. In Hazaribagh the revaluation operations undertaken by the Settlement Department under Chapter II-A of the Cess Act by the district staff were almost completed.

The collection of cess on lands and mines involved the keeping of no less than 231,408 distinct accounts, an increase of 6,740 in the previous year; the average demand was 26.

Municipal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter III of the Report, "Municipalities".]

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bihar and Orissa, for the year 1917.—Statistics of British India, Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Climatic conditions.

429. The monsoon during the year was heavy, and the harvest good in the greater part of the province. The price of common rice fell generally and was nowhere less than 10 seers per rupee. In a few districts the crops were damaged by severe floods which reduced the average of what would otherwise have been a record harvest. The climatic conditions of the season were however unfavourable to the public health and the year was marked by an increased prevalence of fever and a rise in the death rate from cholera and plague.

Vital Statistics.

430. The birth-rate of the province rose from 36·6 to 40·4 and the death-rate from 32·8 to 35·2. The recorded increase in the birth-rate was attributed to better registration and the increase in the death-rate to the general unhealthiness caused by the excessive rainfall. The average birth-rate of the last ten years is 39·9 and the average death-rate of the same period 32·9.

Registration of vital occurrences.

431. Registration of births and deaths continued to be faulty and the statistics can command little confidence. The experiment which was started in 1915 in Muzaffarpur of an independent test of the police returns showed that the returns of births and deaths now recorded may be deficient by as much as 40 per cent. The procedure of collecting vital occurrences in compulsory areas which was revised under the orders of Government in October 1916 has not yet been brought into general use, the smaller towns being the worst offenders. From many towns no returns were available. Improvement in registration was confined to isolated municipalities such as Cuttack, and to the large towns.

Cholera.

432. The death-rate from cholera rose from 2·6 to 3·1. This disease broke out in epidemic form in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Muzaffarpur, Champaran, Darbhanga, Monghyr, Purnea and Hazaribagh. Active measures were taken by district officers to combat these outbreaks, but the climatic conditions were not favourable to the rapid disappearance of the disease, which lingered on until November. Steps were taken by Government to ensure the report by telegram of all outbreaks of cholera in epidemic form in towns and pilgrim centres so that immediate action might be taken by the Sanitary Department to arrest the spread of the disease.

Small-pox.

433. The mortality from small-pox fell from ·3 to ·1 per mille. This fall was attributed to the large increase in the supply of vaccine and to the stricter supervision exercised over the vaccination staff.

Fevers.

434. The death-rate from fevers was 22·5 compared with 21·5 in the previous year and a decennial average of 20·6. The high death-rate and the unusual prevalence of malaria during the autumn were due to the abnormal prolongation of the monsoon.

A scheme for carrying out experimental anti-malaria measures in two selected areas, one urban and one rural, was started; but the measures taken failed to excite popular interest, and the greatest difficulty was

found in inducing the people to take quinine even as a curative measure. On the other hand, the work of the district malaria lecturers in Shahabad, Cuttack and Purnea was favourably reported on.

The consumption of quinine in the province during 1917 increased, the number of pounds used being 1,429·9 compared with 962 pounds in the previous year.

Plague.

435. Mortality from plague during the year was very high, 45,436 deaths being recorded against 25,349 in 1916. The ratio of mortality was 1·3 which is higher by ·6 than that of the previous year and by ·1 than the decennial average. The early arrival and the prolonged continuance of the monsoon and the abnormally heavy rainfall produced conditions favourable to the continuance of plague during the rainy season and also to its early recrudescence in the cold weather. District Boards in infected districts employed temporary plague doctors, but the results of their activities are reported to have been disappointing. The maintenance by Government of a special staff for inoculation against plague was discontinued; anti-plague inoculation work was instead carried on under the direction of District Boards and under the supervision of Civil Surgeons.

Dysentery and Diarrhœa.

436. The rate of mortality from dysentery and diarrhœa was the same as that of the previous year (·8) and slightly lower than the average figure of the last ten years.

As usual the highest mortality was in the districts of Cuttack (4·2) and Puri (6·0).

Respiratory diseases.

437. The mortality from respiratory diseases was ·2 compared with the decennial average of ·1.

The districts of Puri and Sambalpur again recorded the highest mortality under this head. Their ratio was 1·9 and 1·3 respectively.

Inland Emigration.

Administrative measures.

438. No recruitment for Assam took place in the Tirhut Division, or in the districts of Patna, Bhagalpur and Purnea. The total number of emigrants recruited from the province fell to 12,462 from 94,911 in 1915-16 and 35,883 in 1916-17. This very marked decrease was shared by almost all the recruiting districts; it was due partly to the competition of Government recruitment for the war, and partly to the bumper rice crop of 1917, which made it unnecessary for the labouring classes to look abroad for their livelihood.

Since the repeal of Chapter III and section 90 of the Act of 1901 by the Assam Labour and Emigration (Amendment) Act VIII of 1915, the only legal form of recruitment in the province has been that conducted in accordance with Chapter IV through the medium of garden sardars working either independently or under the control of local agents licensed under section 64 of the Act. Experience had proved that the employment of garden sardars to recruit independently of a local agent had tended elsewhere to a revival of the abuses of the *Arkutti* system; and at the instance of the Assam Labour Board the Local Government issued a notification under section 3 of the Act under which the recruitment of emigrants except through the medium of garden sardars accredited to local agents was prohibited altogether with effect from the 1st of April 1918.

Under notification No. 9619-M., dated the 23rd July 1915, local agents were required to send to the District Magistrate monthly copies of all entries in register II of the registers maintained by them in addition to a daily list of emigrants. The submission of monthly lists had been found unnecessary, and was discontinued.

A temporary arrangement had been made in the preceding year by which Superintendents of Emigration, when they were unable to accept the adverse recommendations of the Assam Labour Board in the matter of granting local agents' licenses under section 64 of the Act, were required

to submit such cases with the Board's statement of the case to the Local Government for final orders. This procedure has since been permanently adopted. No cases of this nature were reported during the year.

A new rule No. 24-A was added by the Government of India to the rules issued under section 116-F. of the Act, prescribing the purposes to which the cess levied by the Assam Labour Board under section 116-F, can be applied.

The question of placing recruitment from the Feudatory States of Orissa and Chota Nagpur on a legal footing was considered by Government in consultation with the Commissioners of Chota Nagpur and Orissa and the Political Agent to the Orissa States. The Local Government framed a set of model rules for recruiting in these areas, and the Commissioners of the Orissa and the Chota Nagpur Divisions were instructed to ask the Chiefs to adopt these rules with such modifications as might be necessary to suit the particular conditions of their respective States. The general adoption of these rules will, it is hoped, lead to the abolition of illicit recruitment.

Centres of accommodation were maintained in good sanitary condition and there was no outbreak of epidemic disease in them.

439. The number of criminal cases in which emigrants were the complainants and the number of persons convicted fell from 66 and 79 in 1916-17 to 13 and 16 respectively in 1917-18. The fall was a natural sequel to the decrease in the number of emigrants. **Criminal Cases.**

Medical Institutions.

[Annual returns of Hospitals and Dispensaries in Bihar and Orissa, for the year 1917. Statistics of British India, Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

440. There were 420 hospitals and dispensaries of all classes in the province against 387 in the previous year. Fifteen local fund, one private-aided and two railway dispensaries were opened and twenty-one Mission and private non-aided institutions, which were already in existence, were brought under the recognition of the Medical Department. Six institutions were closed during the year of which three were District Board dispensaries, two private non-aided and one State special. The travelling dispensaries continued to render useful service to the public and although a few of them were closed during the year, the number of patients treated by them increased from 69,852 to 75,563. **Number of dispensaries.**

441. During the year 3,807,173 patients were treated compared with 3,463,145 in 1916 showing an increase of 344,028 or 9·96 per cent. This increase which was mainly due to the addition of new dispensaries, testifies to the growing popularity of these institutions. Of the total number of patients treated 53,035 were in-patients and 3,754,138 out-patients. **Number of patients treated.**

442. Cholera, diarrhœa, dysentery, plague and malaria showed considerable increases. The largest number of cases treated in the hospitals and dispensaries were for malaria for which 800,285 patients received treatment compared with 706,662 in 1916. Deaths from malaria among the general population were calculated at 776,231, an increase of 33,398 over the figures for the previous year. The deaths from this disease among the general population were 776,231 compared with 742,833 in the previous year. **Diseases treated.**

443. The total income of the medical institutions in the province amounted to Rs. 13,95,241 and their expenditure to Rs. 14,17,428. Contributions from Government amounted to Rs. 4,68,161, and those from Municipal and other local funds amounted to Rs. 1,27,280 and Rs. 5,83,224 respectively. Private subscriptions amounted to Rs. 1,46,016. **Finance.**

444. The numbers of students on the rolls of the Medical Schools at Bankipur and at Cuttack were 159 and 167, respectively, compared with 131 and 156 during the preceding year. **Medical Schools.**

445. The number of lepers treated in the eight leper asylums of the province was 1,373; 2,802 leper patients were treated at hospitals and dispensaries. These figures show no marked variation. The total expenditure for maintaining the asylums amounted to Rs. 90,529 of which Government contributed Rs. 49,463. Detailed plans and estimates for the new leper asylum at Cuttack were in course of preparation. **Leper Asylums.**

Lunatic Asylums.

[Annual returns of the Patna Lunatic Asylum at Bankipur in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1917. Resolution on the reports for the years 1915—1917.]

Population, admission and discharge.

446. On the 1st January, 1917, there were 256 males and 46 females under treatment in the Patna Lunatic Asylum. The total number of admissions during the year was 73 males and 3 females. The number discharged was 57 males and 4 females, while the number of deaths was 32 males and 3 females, so that the population at the close of the year was 252 males and 43 females. The general health of the inmates of the asylum during the triennium ending 1917 continued to be unsatisfactory although the percentage of recoveries rose from 8·03 to 11·5 and the percentage of deaths on daily average strength fell from 13·40 to 11·98 during the triennium. The Central Lunatic Asylum for Europeans at Ranchi was opened in May 1918, but as iron and other building materials could not be procured little progress could be made with the proposed asylum for Indian lunatics at Ranchi beyond the collection of materials locally available.

Finance.

447. The total receipts of the Patna Asylum under all heads aggregated Rs. 41,476 as against Rs. 35,397 in 1916.

Sanitation.

[Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bihar and Orissa, for the year 1917.]

Sanitary improvements.

448. The total expenditure for sanitary purposes in municipalities was Rs. 13,62,667 against Rs. 15,18,554 in the preceding year. There was a decrease of Rs. 1,98,778 in expenditure under the head of drainage which was due to the unusually heavy expenditure which had been incurred on this account in many towns in the previous year; but in the expenditure on conservancy there was an increase of Rs. 44,339 and an increase of Rs. 13,315 in the money spent on water-supply. The total expenditure on sanitation by District Boards was Rs. 4,19,098 against Rs. 4,32,028 in the previous year.

The staff under the Sanitary Engineer was strengthened and reorganized and the work of the Department progressed faster in consequence, but owing to the great amount of urgent work in the New Capital, the activities of the Sanitary Engineer in other parts of the province were necessarily restrieted. The Sanitary Works Division carried out during the year original works of a total value of Rs. 5,16,602.

Health Officers.

449. The province was handicapped during the year by the shortage of health officers. The conditions of service which attach to the post of health officer to a municipality are not sufficiently attractive and many men competent and qualified for these appointments preferred to go on military duty. There were in consequence very few candidates available for vacant posts of second class health officers and several towns remained without any health officer throughout the year.

Sanitary School.

450. The Sanitary School at Patna continued to work satisfactorily. Out of 36 sanitary inspectors deputed for a course of training, 25 passed the qualifying examination.

Lanitary Saboratory.

451. The Sanitary Laboratory was brought into efficient working order. Both chemical and bacteriological analyses were carried out, the number of articles examined during the year being 751 compared with 69 in the previous year. In addition frequent analyses of sullage water were made in connection with the experimental sullage disposal installation at Patna, and a series of daily tests of Ganges water and of Sone water in the Arrah waterworks was carried out.

Sanitary Survey.

452. Sanitary surveys of the towns of Gaya, Puri and Ranchi were completed and those of three other towns were in progress.

Press and Publicity Bureau.

453. A scheme for opening a Press and Publicity Bureau with a view to educating the public to a higher standard of sanitary knowledge and activity was sanctioned during the year and started on a small scale. A large number of articles and paragraphs were issued to the Press throughout the province, and sanitary series placards were reprinted in Hindi in leaflet form.

A systematic investigation was carried on in the Bhagalpur Jail and in the Patna Lunatic Asylum to ascertain the prevalence of hook-worm disease (ankylostomiasis) in the province.

Vaccination.

[Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bihar and Orissa, for the year 1917 and Annual Vaccination Report, Bihar and Orissa, for 1917-18.]

454. The death-rate from small-pox was ·1 against ·3 in the previous year. **Small-pox and vaccination.**

The total number of operations performed during the year amounted to 1,097,676 compared with 1,090,434 in the previous year. Of this number 1,084,031 were performed by the Vaccination Department, 97·92 per cent being successful against 97·27 in the preceding year. Of the total number of operations 1,055,374 were primary and 28,657 re-vaccinations.

The Vaccination Acts were extended to certain areas in the Ghatsila and Sakchi police-stations of the district of Singhbhum.

Vaccination work in the Orissa Feudatory States continued to make progress, the total number of vaccinations in the last twelve years having increased from 165,967 to 526,410 and of re-vaccinations from 43,498 to 330,938.

The work of the Vaccine Depôt at Namkum was satisfactory and it has now completely established itself. It assures to the province its vaccine supply, and could without much difficulty supply other provinces in an emergency. Some interesting research work also was carried out at the Depôt.

CHAPTER VII.-INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-12, PART II, PAGES 220—225.

Education.

[Report on the Progress of Education in Bihar and Orissa for 1917-18.—Statistics of British India, Part VII.—Education.]

Staff.

455. Seven officers of the Education Department were absent on deputation to military duty ; and an irreparable loss was suffered by the death of Captain Russell in action in Palestine.

There was a net increase of eight posts in the provincial service, the most important changes being the creation of new posts for the Superintendent of Sanskrit Studies and the professors of the Greer Bhumihar Brahman College at Muzaffarpur. Effect was given to far-reaching changes in the reorganization of the lower services. The lower subordinate service, the conditions of which had long been found prejudicial to the prospects of its members, was abolished, and its posts distributed between the subordinate service and the vernacular teacher's service. The reorganization of the subordinate educational service itself was under consideration.

General statistics.

456. The total expenditure on Public Instruction was Rs. 80,89,656 of which direct expenditure amounted to Rs. 60,07,652 and indirect to Rs. 20,82,004. Of the direct expenditure Rs. 4,47,923 was spent on colleges, Rs. 18,17,455 on secondary schools, Rs. 29,42,923 on primary schools and Rs. 7,99,351 on training and other special schools. Of the indirect expenditure about nine lakhs were spent on buildings, furniture and apparatus, six lakhs on direction and inspection, more than a lakh on scholarships, about two lakhs on University and more than three lakhs on miscellaneous charges. In British territory alone there were 29,472 institutions attended by 852,324 scholars representing 16·4 per cent of the total population of school-going age. The number of male pupils was 737,783 or 29·2 per cent of the male population of school-going age and of the female pupils 110,335 or 4·2 per cent of the female population of school-going age.

Rs. 2,12,798 were spent on European schools to which provincial revenues contributed Rs. 90,236.

University.

457. The University of Patna was established on October 1st, 1917. It has not yet been possible to start the construction of buildings but the land on which they are to be erected was acquired, and the Government Architect was engaged on the preparation of plans; some time must still elapse before construction can be undertaken. A draft set of Regulations was prepared and considered, and finally sanctioned in February, 1918 ; the first examinations were held between February and April. The expenditure on the University from provincial revenues was Rs. 1,18,527 for the acquisition of land and Rs. 33,009 for recurring charges.

Arts colleges.

458. There are seven Arts Colleges in the province of which three are managed by Government, viz.,the Patna College, the Ravenshaw College and the Greer Bhumihar Brahman College. St. Columba's College, the Bihar National College and the Tej Narayan Jubilee College are aided institutions while

a temporary grant-in-aid has been made to the Diamond Jubilee College. The total number of students rose from 2,575 to 2,811 but the direct expenditure declined from Rs. 3,99,090 to Rs. 3,91,183. The expenditure from provincial revenues also fell from Rs. 2,44,510 to Rs. 2,27,089. All colleges made steady progress except the Diamond Jubilee College, the working of which remained unsatisfactory. A new science block at St. Columba's College was opened by the Lieutenant-Governor in November, 1917.

The staff of the Patna College was weakened by the transfer of Professor J. N. Sarkar to the Benares Hindu University. To fill the vacancy Mr. Owston Smith was recalled from the Greer Bhumihar Brahman College but took long leave to join the post of Principal of Holkar College, Indore, and the post since then has been unfilled. The total number of students was 457 on 31st March, 1918, against 382 on the same date of the previous year.

There were 499 students at the Ravenshaw College on 31st March, 1918, compared with 475 on the same date of the previous year, and at the Greer Bhumihar Brahman College the number of students rose from 270 to 297.

Secondary Education.

The number of secondary schools for boys increased from 326 to 340, their pupils from 58,149 to 58,819 and direct expenditure from Rs. 13,74,832 to Rs. 14,17,565.

The number of high schools increased from 100 to 106 and their pupils from 34,734 to 35,202. There was an increase in the average cost per pupil from Rs. 30-6-0 to Rs. 31-9-2 in high schools. The six high schools recognized during the year were those at Goreakothi in Saran, the Edward Memorial Institution at Chapra, the Panchgachia High School in the Bhagalpur district, the Jamalpur High School in Monghyr, the Raj Kanika High School in Cuttack and the Katras High School in Manbhum. Owing to the war, the number of buildings erected for high schools was not large but a new building was completed at Nawada, and a fine hall constructed for the C. M. S. High School at Bhagalpur. Extensions were made to the Zila School at Motihari and the High Schools at Banka, Kissengunj and Deoghar.

For Middle English Schools for boys the figures were 234 schools, 23,617 boys against 226 schools, 23,415 boys of the previous year.

A scheme for a school-leaving certificate examination was sanctioned during the year.

Primary Schools.

The total number of primary schools for boys decreased from 23,404 to 23,395, but there was an increase in the number of pupils from 657,980 to 663,915. The direct expenditure on these schools also rose from Rs. 27,35,234 to Rs. 27,95,595. These figures include recognized *maktabs* and Sanskrit *pathshalas*.

The 130 Middle Vernacular Schools did not vary in number, but pupils decreased from 11,635 to 11,476 while expenditure increased from Rs. 1,48,764 to Rs. 1,59,254.

The number of upper primary schools rose from 1,729 to 1,738 and their pupils from 91,471 to 92,880, but lower primary schools showed a decrease in number from 21,545 to 21,527 though the pupils attending them increased from 554,874 to 559,559.

459. Owing to financial stringency the number of students admitted to the Patna Training College was limited as in 1916-17 to 20 but has since been raised to 40. The cost of the College however rose from Rs. 30,117 in 1916-17 to Rs. 31,199 in the year under report and the cost of training each officer was thus nearly Rs. 1,600. **Training of Teachers.**

The total number of pupils in the five first grade training schools fell from 372 to 364, though a Bengali Section was opened in the Ranchi School and 12 pupils were admitted to it. The number of Government training

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schools for gurus and for Muhammadan teachers remained 116. The number of pupils fell from 1,781 to 1,739. The number of aided schools of this class remained three while their pupils rose in number from 73 to 76.

Law Colleges.

460. The number of students in the Patna Law College rose from 202 to 212 in the B. L. classes and 39 in the pleadership classes.

The number of students in the pleadership class at Bhagalpur rose from 30 to 32 while at Cuttack the number fell from 12 to 11.

Medical, Engineering, Surveying and other schools.

461. Excluding the five lace schools the number of technical and professional institutions remained constant at 42 though the number of pupils rose from 1,491 to 1,647 and the expenditure declined from Rs. 2,32,164 to Rs. 2,29,570.

In the Medical Schools at Cuttack and Bankipore the number of students rose from 257 to 273 and the expenditure from Rs. 79,425 to Rs. 82,957.

The number of students in the two mining classes taught through the medium of English rose from 172 to 202 and that in vernacular classes from 140 to 254. The expenditure on these classes rose from Rs. 974 to Rs. 1,160.

In the Bihar School of Engineering the number of students was 155 against 166 last year, and direct expenditure declined from Rs. 78,480 to Rs. 63,064.

The Sub-overseer, Overseer, and Artisan sections of the schools continued to do well but the vernacular Surveyors' class remained unsatisfactory and was therefore abolished. At the annual examinations conducted by the Joint Technical Examination Board, 8 students qualified as Overseers and 30 as Sub-overseers out of 15 and 39 candidates respectively, while out of 10 survey candidates 7 passed.

The Ranchi Industrial School had 110 pupils against 111 last year. The expenditure rose from Rs. 24,734 to Rs. 26,164, but the cost to provincial revenues fell from Rs. 16,773 to Rs. 15,065 owing to the larger income from sale-proceeds. Thirty-five pupils of the artisan class joined the France Labour Corps. The system of granting a percentage of the earnings of the motor department to the mechanic in charge was discontinued.

The number of pupils in the Survey Schools at Cuttack and Angul declined from 44 to 37. The former has since been abolished and pending the establishment of a school of Engineering at Cuttack, 12 scholarships of Rs. 20 a month tenable for two years have been sanctioned to enable Oriya students to proceed to the Bihar School of Engineering. The expenditure from provincial revenues on the Cuttack School rose from Rs. 8,436 to Rs. 8,931.

The 'B' classes at the Bhagalpur Zila School had 37 students on their roll against 35 the year before. The future of these classes is under discussion.

The number of artisan schools decreased from 21 to 20.

The number of commercial schools increased from 5 to 6, that of their pupils from 118 to 137 and their expenditure from Rs. 5,573 to Rs. 5,763.

Education of Indian Girls or Women.

462. The number of lace schools is still five. Two of the Ranchi classes have been amalgamated and two have given up their grants owing to their large income from sales. The new class included in the returns is that attached to the Badshah Nawab Razvi Training College which has 8 pupils on its roll.

The number of public institutions for girls rose during the year from 2,553 to 2,586 and that of the girls attending them from 60,335 to 60,968 while private institutions declined from 56 with 1,071 girls to 54 with 991, thus leaving a net gain of 31 schools and 553 girls. The direct expenditure rose from Rs. 4,31,241 to Rs. 4,36,680. The number of girls in boys' schools continued to fall being now 48,376 against 49,495 a year ago. There was therefore a fall of 566 in the total number of girls at school.

The number of pupils in the I. A. classes attached to the Ravenshaw Girls' School rose during the year from 8 to 13. Three girls were sent up for the Intermediate Examination of whom only one passed.

High Schools remained three in number and Middle English Schools five, while the figures for pupils also were almost constant. The number of pupils in the Ravenshaw Girls' School rose during the year from 157 to 188.

The recorded number of Middle Vernacular Schools is still 11, but the number of pupils rose from 1,243 to 1,301. A new building for the Mission School at Balasore was in progress.

The inclusion of the Baptist Mission class at Bankipore in the returns accounts for the rise in the number of training classes from 8 to 9, while the number of pupils has also risen from 137 to 139. The grants to the aided training classes were standardized and slightly raised, and the pay of the junior teachers in the Badshah Nawab Razvi Training College was raised to a minimum of Rs 30.

The number of middle, upper primary and lower primary scholarships won by girls was 2, 3 and 78 against 2, 10 and 93 respectively in the previous year. When the new scholarship rules are introduced a liberal number of scholarships will be reserved for girls.

European Schools.

463. The number of recognized European schools was 19, as in the last two years. The number of pupils fell from 1,094 to 1,081 of whom 601 were boys and 480 girls, and the total expenditure rose by Rs. 35 to Rs. 2,12,798.

Muhammadan Education.

464. The number of Muhammadan students in Arts Colleges rose from 470 to 543, from 58 to 78 in Professional colleges, from 87,197 to 88,191 in primary schools (including *maktabs*) and from 11,484 to 12,374 in private institutions while it fell from 8,901 to 8,307 in secondary schools and from 2,042 to 2,014 in special schools. There was thus a net increase of 1,355 pupils. The number of recognized *maktabs* fell from 2,403 to 2,365 and that of their pupils from 60,321 to 58,688. The expenditure on them declined from Rs. 2,57,997 to Rs. 2,45,411. The number of recognized *madrassas* fell from 16 to 15 and that of their pupils from 1,329 to 1,274. The expenditure on them decreased from Rs. 27,444 to Rs. 26,195.

Sanskrit Education.

465. The number of Sanskrit *tols* declined from 369 to 368 but that of their pupils rose from 10,219 to 10,488.

Reformatory School.

466. The number of students in the Reformatory School at Hazaribagh declined during the year from 459 to 415 of whom 257 came from Bengal, 15 from Assam, and 143 from Bihar and Orissa. The gross expenditure declined from Rs. 1,19,060 to Rs. 1,09,245.

Hostels.

467. The number of hostels rose from 469 to 509 and that of their inmates from 14,282 to 15,532. The expenditure declined from Rs. 2,07,523 to Rs. 1,90,850.

Physical Training.

468. The arrangements with the Young Men's Christian Association at Calcutta for the training of drill masters still continued, but a scheme was sanctioned for the appointment of a Physical Director for the province. As in Bengal the officer will be a member of the Young Men's Christian Association. The Association has agreed to establish a centre at Patna.

In order to relieve local bodies of expenditure on secondary education, Middle English Schools which had been managed by the District Boards were taken over by Government on an aided basis.

Literature and the Press.

[Statistics of British India, Part VII.—Educational.]

Publications registered.

469. The total number of Hindi books published during the year 1917-18 was 173 against 169 during the previous year. The bulk of these consisted of works on religion and miscellaneous subjects. Thirty-eight books were published in Urdu. A publication entitled "Mosadas Ahmadi" was written to vindicate the justice of the Allied cause in the present war. The total number of Oriya books published during the year was 637 against 378 during the

previous year. These consisted of school books and works on mythology, religion, poetry and miscellaneous subjects.

Newspapers.

470. The newspapers and periodicals in circulation at the close of the year numbered 64 compared with 60 in 1916 and 55 in 1915. Twelve publications ceased to issue, four of them after less than a year's existence. The *Beharee*, a daily newspaper written in English, ceased to appear towards the close of the year. Of the fifteen new publications, two only, the *Bihar News* and the *Oriya*, merit attention. Both of them are weeklies which deal with current politics. Only a few issues of each were published before the close of the year.

Seventeen newspapers and periodicals were published in English, ten in Oriya, seven in Urdu, three in Bengali; six contained articles in both English and Oriya. The remainder were in Hindi. The demise of the *Beharee* left the *Express* the only newspaper appearing in a daily edition.

Patna and Cuttack were the chief centres of journalistic activity. Of the sixteen periodicals published in the latter town, many are missionary magazines.

The events in Champaran occupied considerable space in the provincial press, and the political developments of the year and the feelings engendered by the Shahabad disturbances resulted in some wild and reckless writing. It was found necessary to order one prosecution and to issue one warning. The editor of the *Raj Sakti* was convicted under the Penal Code for an attack on a government officer, and the editor of the *Beharee* was warned for publishing an article calculated to cause alarm.

Scientific and Literary Societies in Bihar and Orissa.

SEE—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-12, PAGE 229.

CHAPTER VIII—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

Pataliputra excavations.

471. No additional exploration work at Pataliputra has been possible for the last three seasons owing to the absence of the Superintendent from Patna during the summer months, when alone the lowered level of the sub-soil water makes deep digging practicable in that locality.

Nalanda.

472. Apart from the usual measures taken at the end of a working season to protect during the rainy months exposed walls and important finds remaining *in situ*, the exceptional value attaching to the Nalanda ruins made necessary the undertaking of special repairs to the exhumed buildings continuing *pari passu* with the work of excavation. For this purpose the Local Government sanctioned a special grant of Rs. 1,000 of which Rs. 989 were spent. At the southern monastery at Nalanda most of the additional clearance effected was outside the main walls: inside the monastery the work was chiefly of conservation. Previous work on the tall stupa mound west by south of the monastery had determined that there are at least three successive integuments of masonry, the oldest or innermost of which is still covered with well-preserved stucco ornament. The clearance was during the year extended round the north-west angle and to the west side of the main monument. The main problem is to free the inner stupa with the minimum of disturbance to later extensions. Excavation in the courtyards north and west disclosed a considerable number of small stupas clustering round the main edifice. A special grant-in-aid of Rs. 3,000 given by the Director-General of Archæology was of the greatest assistance.

Miscellaneous.

473. The Local Government spent Rs. 11,628 on conservation. Special repairs to the tomb of Bakhtiyar Khan at Chainpur in the Shahabad district were completed. Rs. 2,221 were spent in repairs to the famous Black Pagoda at Konarak. The erection of a monument on the battle-field at Buxar was in progress.

Museum.

474. A scheme for the establishment of a provincial museum had been worked out in 1915, but as it involved heavy expenditure on buildings, it has not been possible yet to bring it into effect. In the meantine the collection of exhibits has commenced, temporary accommodation being provided in the ground floor rooms of the northern annexés of the Patna High Court building. The first Curator was appointed in April 1917. Government grants were given for the purchase of furniture and show cases; the archæological section already contains 114 pieces of sculpture. The Museum Committee issued their first annual report at the close of the year.

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